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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

SUPPLEMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

RIDGEWOOD WATER PLANNING WATER QUALITY ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Our commitment to water quality includes keeping you informed about Ridgewood Water's regular maintenance, system upgrades, and compliance with new and evolving regulations for drinking water.

Ridgewood Water will hold virtual Water Quality Open Houses on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 6:30pm, and on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 12:00pm (noon). Our professional staff and technical experts will provide information and answer questions about what we're doing to provide our customers with quality drinking water. Instructions on how to participate will be posted soon on

www.water.ridgewoodnj.net.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) IN DRINKING WATER

As your water system operator, we are voluntarily providing supplemental information beyond that which can be found in the 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Full report can be found at <http://mods.ridgewoodnj.net/pdf/water/WQR/2020WQR.pdf>). As you may recall, we first reported on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the September 2018 supplement, and we consider this document to be an update to that supplement. Publishing the results of our proactive monitoring was performed voluntarily, in recognition that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) was, at the time, developing guidance and criteria using assumptions on PFAS that are protective of human health for exposure over a lifetime.

NJDEP now has standards for three compounds within the PFAS class of chemicals: PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS. NJDEP first required monitoring of PFNA in Q1 of 2020.* The requirement for monitoring of PFOA and PFOS begins in 2021.

Ridgewood Water performs monitoring for a total of 14 PFAS and reports on all results. Please read the following information so that you are aware of the current levels of PFAS in your drinking water and what Ridgewood Water is doing in compliance and voluntarily, in cooperation with NJDEP to provide you with quality drinking water. Compliance is based on compiling a running annual average, the averaging of results over the period of one year

* Reporting of those results are required in 2020 and will be in our 2021 Annual Water Quality Report. To date, the results of Ridgewood Water's monitoring continues to meet New Jersey's safe drinking water requirements for PFNA.

BACKGROUND

What Are PFAS? PFAS do not occur naturally but are widespread and extremely persistent in the environment. They are man-made chemicals that have been used to make carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food and cookware resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes.

When Did Ridgewood First Test For PFAS? As part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Rule 3 (UCMR3), Ridgewood Water first collected data from its 27 active treatment plants in 2014 and 2015 to determine the general occurrence of some unregulated contaminants, including certain PFAS. UCMR3 monitoring helps the EPA and NJDEP to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether they should consider regulating those contaminants in the future. At the time, no guidance existed at the state or federal levels and sampling technology available could only reliably measure to 20 parts per trillion (ppt.), as opposed to the current detection limit of 2 ppt. Since then, both EPA and NJDEP continue to study PFAS.

Are There Standards For PFAS? EPA has only recommended guidance for PFAS, not regulatory requirements, which are intended to offer health-protective advice to water systems in the absence of enforceable standards. New Jersey has enacted regulations or enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for three (3) PFAS compounds: PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS. NJDEP adopted an MCL for PFNA on September 4, 2018, and MCLs for PFOA and PFOS on June 1, 2020. Information on the new regulations can be found at:

https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions/adopt_20200601a.pdf

Ridgewood Water applauds the EPA and NJDEP for developing drinking water guidance and criteria to proactively address the possible effects of PFAS. Links to additional information resources are on page 3.

PFAS Testing Results and Actions Ridgewood Water Is Taking

- May 2016: EPA announced plans for a health advisory limit of 70 ppt., either combined or individually, for PFOA and PFOS. Based on results from UCMR3 sampling Ridgewood Water performed in 2014-15, the Carr Treatment Plant, one of its 27 plants (then active), had combined levels of PFOA and PFOS above 70 ppt. The plant was removed from the system in 2017 and the water supply met all standards for drinking water when the guidance was set.
- Late 2017: NJDEP notified Ridgewood Water of its plans to set a guidance value for PFOA. We voluntarily followed their recommended actions in preparation for the announcement. Ridgewood Water tested all treatment plants in the system for a suite of 14 PFAS compounds, including PFOA, PFOS and PFNA. Results indicated low-levels of PFOA were widespread in the system. Twenty-five of 26 tested treatment plants measured levels above the proposed NJDEP MCL for PFOA. Lower levels of PFOS were detected at or below the recently proposed NJDEP MCL. All treatment plants measured PFNA levels well below the then newly established NJDEP MCL.
- 2018: Ridgewood Water continued to proactively address PFAS levels. We voluntarily implemented a public notification campaign, including a customer mailing, presentations at municipal meetings, information on the website, and holding Community Information Sessions in each of the communities we serve for residents to learn more and ask questions.
- 2019: Ridgewood Water decided independently to add to the suite of PFAS sampled an unregulated PFAS with the trade name of GenX, used as a replacement to PFOA and PFOS in manufacturing nonstick coatings and for other purposes. In September 2019, the Carr Treatment Plant was brought back online following installation of a treatment system using granular activated carbon (GAC), a technology proven to remove all tested PFAS compounds.
- May 2020: Ridgewood Water completed its Master Treatment Plan for addressing PFAS. The plan details an operational strategy of blending water sources, and cost-efficient installation of additional treatments and maintenance to ensure water quality is the best it can be into the future. The plan was developed by engineering firm Mott MacDonald and based on expert evaluation of all available treatment methods for PFAS and assessment of our current resources. Estimated cost is about \$100 million over a 5-10 year implementation. A copy of the plan can be found on the Ridgewood Water website PFAS page.
- Ongoing:
 - Quarterly monitoring of plants for future treatment investments.
 - Determine likely PFAS sources, and potentially responsible parties to help address.
 - Communicate with wholesale providers about PFAS levels and collaborate on solutions for treatment.
 - Continue to update NJDEP and our customers.
 - Engineer treatment methods for installation at the remaining plants.
 - Continue to research new technologies and alternative treatment methods to ensure we are utilizing the most appropriate methods available. A pilot study of resin for PFAS removal is ongoing at the Prospect Treatment Facility.

Pursuing Cost Recovery from Responsible Parties

Our rate payers should not bear the cost of these impacts. Ridgewood Water did not cause the contamination in the natural aquifer that is the source of some of our water. The Village of Ridgewood hired the law firm of Sher Edling LLP on 11/28/18 to determine a path to recover from potential polluters the significant costs of meeting New Jersey's PFAS regulations. A motion to seek damages was filed in Bergen County Superior Court on 2/25/19. We will continue to keep customers informed of our progress. A full copy of the complaint can be found on our website at:

Science and Technology Continue to Evolve

Significant improvements in technology allow for water systems to test for compounds at much lower levels than previously possible. As technology has advanced, contaminants we used to measure in the millions can now be measured in billions, or in some cases as low as the trillions. Enhanced capabilities permit detection down to as low as 2 parts per trillion. Unregulated contaminants that have been present in the water supply for years are only now being evaluated because of enhanced testing capabilities. For that reason, Ridgewood Water considers it imperative to participate in unregulated contaminant testing to proactively improve water quality and maintain safe drinking water standards.

Ridgewood Water’s Sampling Results - All Levels Shown Are in Parts Per Trillion (ppt)

While we are actively working to address levels now, only results collected in 2021 and beyond would be considered to determine potential NJDEP violations of the maximum contaminant level (MCL). An MCL violation is based on a Running Annual Average and once exceeded we must take corrective action within one year of the violation. If a violation does occur, a public notice will be sent to residents.

Ridgewood Water’s Sampling Results
All levels shown are in parts per trillion (ppt).

Contaminant	NJDEP Guidance/MCL	EPA Health Advisory Levels	Levels Detected in Ridgewood Water*
PFOA	14 Established June 2020	70 ** (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced in May 2016	Range = ND*** – 32.7 System Average = 24.3 (4 Rounds)
PFOS	13 Established June 2020	70 ** (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced in May 2016	Range = ND*** – 30.5 System Average = 10.07 (4 Rounds)
PFNA	13 Established September 2018	None Established	Range = ND*** – 3.52 System Average = 1.39 (4 Rounds)

* Test results through Dec. 2020

** EPA health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS is a maximum of 70 ppt either individually or combined.

*** ND = non detectable

Helpful Resources

While the technology exists to measure smaller and smaller amounts of emerging contaminants, the science of understanding the meaning of those levels is still evolving. Because PFAS compounds are widespread in the environment, many organizations are working to better understand how exposure to them might affect people’s health. Here are links to a few additional resources

https://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/pfas>

<http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/>

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

Ridgewood Water remains committed to providing our customers with high-quality drinking water.

For more information on how Ridgewood Water is working to provide customers with a quality water supply, please visit our website at water.ridgewoodnj.net and participate in one of our upcoming Drinking Water Quality Virtual Open Houses. Event dates, times and instructions on how to participate will soon be posted to our website.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Ridgewood Water, PWSID# NJ0251001. This Notification was distributed on or about February 12, 2021.



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RIDGEWOOD WATER – PWSID 0251001 – DRINKING WATER **2021 FOURTH QUARTER UPDATE - PUBLIC NOTICE**

Ridgewood Water continues to violate two New Jersey drinking water standards, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. In accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (40 C.F.R. 141.203), Ridgewood Water is required to conduct public notification every three months to customers regarding the violations of recently adopted New Jersey drinking water standards. The previous public notification was provided on August 27, 2021, via mailing and posting on Ridgewood Water's website at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net>. Beginning June 1, 2020, New Jersey set standards for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS are two specific compounds within the class of contaminants known as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water. On October 28, 2021, we received notice that the samples collected for the fourth quarter of 2021, showed that Ridgewood Water continues to exceed the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA at nineteen (19) of the system's active twenty-three (23) treatment plants, and exceeds the MCL for PFOS at one (1) of the system's active twenty-three (23) treatment plants.

The New Jersey MCL for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year at the exceeding treatment plants are between 15.6 – 26.0 parts per trillion (ppt). A full list of the system's treatment plant exceedances and their RAA can be found on the fourth page of this notice.

The New Jersey MCL for PFOS is 13 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA). The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year at the exceeding treatment plant is 14.2 parts per trillion (ppt). A full list of the system's treatment plant exceedances and their RAA can be found on the fourth page of this notice.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Ridgewood Water Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) & Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above Drinking Water Standards

What does this mean?

People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.

People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.

For more information on health affects, please refer to NJDOH documentation at https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be in a risk group, and we recommend that you seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA and/or PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA and/or PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA or PFOS.

What is being done?

Ridgewood Water has been aware of PFOA and PFOS detections and has sought to educate our customers for years, through public forums and governmental action, about their presence in our water, as well as the utility's plan to remove these contaminants. Ridgewood Water completed its Master Treatment Plan for addressing PFAS in mid-May 2020. The plan details an operational strategy of blending water sources, and cost-efficient installation of additional treatments and maintenance to ensure water quality is the best it can be into the future. The plan was developed by a state licensed engineering firm and based on expert evaluation of all available treatment methods for PFAS and assessment of our current resources. One of the twelve

recommended treatment plants for PFAS removal has already been built and is fully operational, the second has been awarded for construction, and the remainder are all under engineering design. A copy of the Master Plan can be found on the Ridgewood Water website PFAS page: <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/> We anticipate resolving the violations as each new treatment plant comes online, with three more breaking ground for construction in 2022 and the last plant scheduled for completion in 2026. Please see our website for a complete list of the most recent project updates.

For more system specific information, please contact Ridgewood Water at (201) 670-5520 or (201) 670-5526.

This notice is being sent to you by Ridgewood Water. State Water System ID#: NJ0251001.

Date distributed: 11/29/21.



Ridgewood Water Additional Information on PFAS

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, GenX, and many others. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries in the United States, and around the globe, since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body—meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects. The two prominent PFAS compounds found in the Ridgewood Water groundwater sources are PFOA and PFOS.

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOA has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOA has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

Ridgewood Water has created a PFAS Resources page on its website at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>.

- The PFAS Resources page contains:
 - A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section
 - Previously issued Public Notification Supplements on PFAS from 2018 and 2021
 - A copy of the PFAS Master Plan
 - A copy of the presentation from recent virtual PFAS Information Sessions that were hosted on September 28th, October 5th, and October 19th, 2021

If you have additional questions, please email Customer Service at cswater@ridgewoodnj.net. Thank you.

For the 4th quarter of PFOA sampling, nineteen (19) of the twenty-three (23) active treatment plants (TP) had an RAA exceeding the MCL:

TP010030 – RAA – 21.2 PPT
TP005023 – RAA – 17.2 PPT
TP021053 – RAA – 22.6 PPT
TP043097 – RAA – 15.9 PPT
TP002003 – RAA – 15.6 PPT
TP033079 – RAA – 25.0 PPT
TP024060 – RAA – 25.3 PPT
TP023057 – RAA – 20.6 PPT
TP025062 – RAA – 19.0 PPT
TP001001 – RAA – 26.0 PPT
TP019049 – RAA – 17.2 PPT
TP028068 – RAA – 22.4 PPT
TP030072 – RAA – 16.7 PPT
TP041094 – RAA – 16.4 PPT
TP014038 – RAA – 15.9 PPT
TP020051 – RAA – 16.7 PPT
TP018047 – RAA – 22.2 PPT
TP035083 – RAA – 21.5 PPT
TP004012 – RAA – 17.1 PPT

For the 4th quarter of PFOS sampling, one (1) of the twenty-three (23) active treatment plants (TP) had an RAA exceeding the MCL:

TP001001 – RAA – 14.2 PPT