

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Failure to Comply with Deferral Conditions

Deferral Issued for PFOA and PFOS for Veolia Water New York

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

Veolia Water New York has requested, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has issued, a deferral to Veolia Water New York. A deferral was issued because testing of our water found the chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per trillion (ppt). When a public water system is issued a deferral, the water system agrees to a schedule for corrective action and compliance with the new MCLs. In exchange, the Department agrees to defer enforcement actions, such as assessing fines, if the water system is meeting the established deadlines and other conditions of the deferral, including meeting specific public notification requirements. We are required to update the Department and the Rockland County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the agreed upon deadlines and any deferral conditions, the Department can resume enforcement.

On August 23, 2022, the Department renewed our deferral for an additional year. A condition of that renewal was to provide a copy of the public notice prepared by the Department to all of our customers within 30 days of the date of the renewal. Information about the deferral, including test results and project schedules, remained on our website, was promoted through social media and was available via a link provided on customer bills. However, the website contained incomplete information and did not include the notice provided by the Department, which included health effects information. The website also included outdated information about the United States Environmental Protection Agency Health Advisory Level, which was revised in June of 2022 from 70 ppt for PFOA and PFOS combined, to levels less than 1 ppt for each compound. As a result, the Department determined that we are in violation of the deferral conditions set forth by the Department on August 23, 2022.

What are the health effects of PFOA and PFOS?

Most of the available information on the health effects associated with PFOA and PFOS, as for many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals or humans. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure.

PFOA and PFOS has caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. Additional studies of high-level exposures of PFOA and PFOS in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency

considers PFOA and PFOS as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer, based on studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of PFOA and PFOS detected in your water, exposure is well below PFOA and PFOS exposures associated with health effects. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses, including using the water for drinking and food preparation.

What is New York State doing about PFOA and PFOS in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA and PFOS. If found above the MCLs, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to remove these contaminants?

Veolia Water New York has installed treatment at 1 site and is in the process of installing treatment at 11 additional sites. From our continued quarterly testing for PFOA and PFOS, we have determined that the raw water at two additional wells in the Ramapo Well Field (which consists of 10 total wells) exceeded the MCL for PFOA during the third quarter of 2022. Several wells in the Well Field are in operation at the same time, so the raw waters from individual wells are blended together before delivery to customers, which reduces the amount of PFOA in your drinking water. Additionally, results from the fourth quarter show that PFOA is back below the MCL at both wells. Veolia Water New York will continue to monitor for PFOA and PFOS at the raw wells, as well as the entry point of Ramapo Well Field, and will provide the Department with a corrective action plan for operating these wells to minimize PFOA levels in the finished water.

Separately, preliminary results from fourth quarter testing at Well 29 show that PFOA and PFOS exceed the MCL. We are collecting additional samples in order to confirm these results and will provide additional information in the quarterly updates which you can find on our website. This well has not been in operation since October 3, 2022.

A copy of all test results and our quarterly updates is available on our website at: <https://nywq.veolianorthamerica.com/acting/>.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Veolia Water at (877) 452-4721 or 162 Old Mill Road, West Nyack, NY 10994. You can also contact the Rockland County Department of Health at (845) 364-2512 or the New York State Department of Health at (518) 402-7650 or bpwsp@health.ny.gov.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID# NY4303673

Date December 12, 2022