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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