IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PFOA MCL Exceedance at Fulmar Road Elementary School

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical *perfluorooctanoic* acid (PFOA) in your drinking water at 13.1 ppt. This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA in public drinking water systems. The MCL is set well below levels known or estimated to cause health effects. Consuming drinking water with PFOA at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. The Fulmar Road Elementary School is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL.

What are the health effects of PFOA?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA, like 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 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 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 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 detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA exposures associated with health effects.

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

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA. If found above the MCL of 10 ppt, 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 meet the MCL?

The Fulmar Road Elementary water supply is working with Lumar Plumbing and the Putnam County Department of Health on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA. We are in the process of designing a treatment system and will submit a plan to the Health Department to reduce PFOA levels.

Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the Putnam County Health Department at 845-808-1390 or Lumar Plumbing at 845-279-4324.

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.

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