



Dear Livingston Water Customer:

This letter relates to the presence of a recently regulated contaminant — Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) — in one of the wells in our water system, which has now been shut down. PFOA is one of a number of contaminants under the broader category of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These emerging compounds have recently been regulated by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), with those regulations first applicable to public water systems (like Livingston) this year. Additional information is available in the New Jersey Department of Health *PFAS Fact Sheet* that accompanies this mailing, and on our website at livingstonnj.org/Water-PFAS. Visit these sources for information on the potential health effects of PFOA and PFAS in drinking water and for recommendations on your options.

PFOA had previously been the subject of advisory guidelines by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NJDEP. The EPA advisory guideline is and has been set at a level of 70 ng/L (nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (ppt)). Until recently, the NJDEP guideline was 40 ppt. Last year, the NJDEP adopted an enforceable regulation or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) which significantly lowered the limit to 14 ppt, which is effective for the first time this year. The limit is applied on the basis of a “Rolling Annual Average” (RAA).

Recently, after only the first three quarter test results, Well # 10 established an RAA of 17 ppt, which is in violation of the new MCL of 14 ppt as explained on the notice on the back of this page. Fortunately, Well #10 only produces 3% of the total well water in our system (120 Gallons per Minute (GPM) out of a total of approximately 4,000 GPM), and we were able to immediately address this violation by turning Well #10 off so it is no longer delivering water to our system.

Unfortunately, year-to-date results from some of our other wells reveal that they are likely to exceed the PFOA MCL of 14 ppt once the 4th quarter results are taken and averaged into the RAA. In addition, the combination of overall demand, available water sources, and the number and production amounts of wells anticipated to be in violation, we do not have the option of simply turning off all of the wells in exceedance. The Township has been aware of the impending new regulation and has already taken active steps to address PFAS contaminants as soon as possible. The Township has taken preliminary tests, retained a highly qualified engineering firm to assess the situation, and has hired that same firm to design the remediation solutions. Those solutions are likely to be a combination of Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration and Ion Exchange Resin technology. We are committed to installing these remediation improvements as soon as possible; however, it is likely to take a few years to fully remediate all wells. In the interim, we must mitigate the risk from the contaminants while still providing the water needed by our residents and customers. We are carefully reviewing all available means to minimize the levels of PFOA, including prioritizing improvements on the highest producing wells, and utilizing our bulk water purchase contracts with other suppliers.

Our water system is comprised of a single interconnected series of water mains, so that all water produced is effectively blended with all other water, with PFAS concentrations dependent on the location of the different wells and service lines. With that in mind, it is important to note the following: (1) the Well #10 exceedance and anticipated other wells' exceedance levels are all well below the EPA guideline of 70 ppt; (2) the new NJDEP standard of 14 ppt is 5 times lower than that of the EPA and among the strictest in the nation; (3) these limits are based on long-term/lifetime exposure to PFAS; and (4) our system demand ranges from 3 to 6 million gallons per day (MGD), and the total production of the wells expected to be in violation is 3 MGD which is blended with the remaining 3 MGD in peak summer months, which comes from non-exceeding wells and other sources. This allows us some control over the percentage of PFOA-affected water introduced into the system (based on peak demand) by limiting the use of wells in exceedance, in order to lower the blended percentage of PFOA-affected water.

We encourage you to review all of the information available and make informed choices for yourself and your family members. Rest assured that we are working as hard as possible to manage our system to minimize any risk while at the same time expediting the installation of the treatment facilities to remediate and remove these contaminants.