



Dear Residents and Consumers,

Enclosed is a regulatory notice letting you know that the Livingston Township Water Department has detected levels of PFOA (perfluorooctanic acid) above the recently enacted NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) drinking water standard of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) in several of our wells. This is the fourth such notice that has been sent to everyone in the community, and these notices will continue to be sent out until treatment units are completed and operational for all affected wells.

Please visit [livingstonnj.org/PFOA](http://livingstonnj.org/PFOA) for copies of prior notices and other information. As a regulated water utility, our Water Department was required by the state to send the notice in the form in which it was delivered. It is important to remember that the water in our system has not suddenly changed – only the NJDEP regulations have changed. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water, and we are taking steps to bring the level of PFOA in the affected wells below the newly lowered NJDEP standard. To accomplish this:

- The Township has committed approximately \$15 million for design and construction of new treatments. Consultant Mott McDonald has been hired to develop the designs. We are upgrading our affected well facilities to treat PFOA using a combination of granulated activated carbon and ion exchange resins. The project is being separated into two phases because of the large number of facilities involved. Design is underway, and permitting with the NJDEP is expected to begin in June 2022 and July 2022 with a bid date of December 2022 and January 2023 for the two phases, respectively. Construction will begin in early 2023. Our goal is to complete construction as quickly as possible; however, timing is subject to NJDEP approval and to the availability of specialized labor and materials, supplies of which are in high demand given the large number of water systems in New Jersey that need to build similar treatment systems in response to the new regulation.
- In the interim the Township is limiting the use of the affected wells as much as possible. However, we cannot meet the system demands without periodically using some of these wells, particularly with peak water usage occurring during the summer. Well 10, the well treatment facility with the highest levels of PFOA, has been shut down since September 2, 2021, and will not be operational again until treatment is installed. It is important to remember that the Township water system is intermingled – different wells are on at different times, supplemented by purchased water from other utilities. This makes it difficult to characterize the exact proportion of water a house is receiving from any given source at any given time.

### What are “PFAS”?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 3,000 compounds which developed beginning in the 1940s. They can be found in products treated to make them non-stick, like food packaging, carpets, textiles, and non-stick cookware. These compounds have been widespread in the environment for many years. PFOA and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)

are the most common of these PFAS compounds. PFOA has been detected in many drinking water systems across the United States and has been found in the blood serum of 98% of the U.S. population. More information can be found at [livingstonnj.org/PFOA](http://livingstonnj.org/PFOA).

Important points to remember:

- Until recently, PFOA was an unregulated contaminant, meaning neither the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nor the NJDEP regulated it in drinking water. In 2016, the EPA issued a "lifetime health advisory" for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water of 70 ppt. This is the concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water at which the EPA concluded adverse health effects *are not anticipated to occur over a lifetime*.
- In 2021, the NJDEP began regulating PFOA in drinking water, and set its maximum contaminant level for PFOA at 14 ppt. New Jersey is one of the first states to regulate PFOA and the standard is far more strict than the EPA's health advisory standard. The standard is applied on the basis of a "Running Annual Average" (RAA), which is the average level over four quarters. For Livingston, the current RAA at Well 2 is 16 ppt, Well 4 is 22 ppt, Well 8 is 18 ppt, Well 10 is 22 ppt and Well 11 is 20 ppt. These levels exceed the NJDEP limit by between 2 and 9 ppt. To help you visualize what these "parts per trillion" measurements mean, 1 ppt is equivalent to 4/1000<sup>ths</sup> of a single drop in the average home's total usage of approximately 73,000 gallons per year. Put another way, 1 ppt is equivalent to 1 second out of 32,000 years.
- Exposure to PFOA in drinking water is mainly through eating and drinking. Exposure to PFOA through other household uses of water such as showering, bathing, laundry, and dish washing is not considered significant. Home treatment systems with the certification NSF 53 can reduce the level of PFOA and PFOS compounds in water.
- If you have specific health concerns or a severely compromised immune system, or if you have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

The Livingston Township Water Department has been providing water for over a hundred years. We work hard to protect our natural resources and deliver the best quality water to every tap, and we are committed to ensuring that your drinking water continues to be the best water source for you and your family.

Sincerely,



Barry R. Lewis, Jr. Township Manager