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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Deferral Issued for PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane in the Village of Garden City

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and 1,4-dioxane in your drinking water above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA/PFOS and 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane. The MCLs are set well below levels known to cause health effects in animal studies. Therefore, consuming water with PFOA, PFOS or 1,4-dioxane at the level detected does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

The Village of Garden City has submitted, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has issued, a deferral to the Village of Garden City. 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. We are required to update the Department and the Nassau County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the agreed upon deadlines, the Department can resume enforcement.

What are the health effects of PFOA and PFOS?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA and PFOS, 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 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 from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA and PFOS exposures associated with health effects.

What are the health effects of 1,4-dioxane?

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused liver cancer in animals exposed at high levels throughout their lifetime. Other types of cancer have also been reported, although less consistently than liver cancer. There is no evidence of 1,4-dioxane cancer effects in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers 1,4-dioxane a likely human carcinogen based upon studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of 1,4-dioxane detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below 1,4-dioxane exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane 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, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane. 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?

The Village of Garden City has continued to work diligently to outfit all our water treatment facilities with the most up-to-date treatment systems. We have installed, or are in the process of installing, state of the art advanced oxidation process wellhead treatment for the removal of 1,4-dioxane and polishing of PFAS at our most impacted facilities. Following a rigorous demonstration and testing period to confirm safety and reliability to the NYS DOH, we have requested and are awaiting final approval by NYS DOH and the Nassau County Department of Health for the interim emergency treatment systems at Well Nos. 10 and 11 and Well No. 7. When operational, the emergency treatment systems will remove 1,4-dioxane, PFOA and PFOS to below detection limits at all sites. Interim treatment measures for the facilities impacted by 1,4-dioxane included the issuance of emergency resolutions allowing the Village to move swiftly in preordering the necessary treatment equipment and completion of the necessary planning and piloting work. The Village is presently implementing emergency interim wellhead treatment systems at Well Nos. 13 and 14, Well Nos. 15 and 16 and Well No. 12. These interim treatment systems are scheduled to be operational during the summer of 2021. Well No. 12 is blended with Well No. 8 for packed tower aeration treatment. Although every Village well has been impacted by 1,4-dioxane and/or PFOA/PFOS to some degree, the Village has included operational changes to minimize the use of supply wells most impacted by 1,4-dioxane. Well No. 12, which has the highest level of 1,4-dioxane has been taken out of service.

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. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible. The deferral is effective until May 25, 2023.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Ralph Suozzi at 516-465-4051 or 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530. You can also contact the Nassau County Department of Health at 516-227-9692.

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# 2902824

Date February 11, 2021