



Important Note: Middlesex Water Company is **expanding our initial notification area** of customers served by our treatment facility in South Plainfield to include **our entire retail service area north of the Raritan River**. This includes all Middlesex Water Company **retail** customers in the towns of South Plainfield, Edison, Metuchen, Woodbridge, and Clark, with the addition of Carteret. Based on continuous analysis and updates to the inputs and assumptions of our hydraulic models, we have expanded the notification area based on a recent conclusion that these new areas receive some portion of the water supply from the treatment plant that exceeded the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) drinking water standard. Our distribution system is an integrated network where different source waters move in different areas of the distribution network throughout any day, depending on overall customer demands and uses. This comprehensive expansion of the notification area assures that all customers who are or may be served with any amount of this supply, at any time, are apprised of the potential health risks and the company's efforts to remediate those risks as well as our customer's options.

A Letter to our Customers

Dear Valued Customer:

In September 2021, Middlesex Water Company was notified that a regulated contaminant — Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) was detected in samples from our treatment facility in South Plainfield. Because we exceeded a drinking water standard, we were required to provide notice to customers served by that treatment facility. PFOA is one of a number of molecular compounds under the broader category of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) you may have heard about in the news in recent months. These emerging compounds have recently been regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), first applicable to public water systems this year. For the sake of this letter, we will refer to PFOA as opposed to the larger family of PFAS compounds.

Drinking water systems like ours are not producers or users of PFOA, instead, their source waters are potential receivers of these chemical compounds used by manufacturers and consumers. As a result, we must now implement solutions to remediate PFOA from our groundwater supplies to meet the new standard. We are building treatment to address PFOA in groundwater but construction takes time. You should also know that Middlesex Water Company is not alone needing to remediate this contaminant. PFOA has been detected in drinking water supplies throughout our state and across the country. We have already begun construction of the new treatment facility to mitigate PFOA and have initiated litigation in U.S. District Court against the party we believe is responsible for the presence of PFOA in the groundwater.

No MCL Standard for PFOA Prior to 2020

Like many other water systems in the U.S., Middlesex Water Company had been required to test for some PFAS compounds as part of the USEPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Well before there was any standard even set for PFOA, we had been reporting these detections in our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), also known as an Annual Water Quality Report, since 2008.

For some background, the USEPA has established what is called a lifetime of exposure health advisory guideline (not a regulatory requirement) at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for a combination of PFAS

chemicals in drinking water. EPA has since announced it will be proposing MCLs for PFOA and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Until recently, the NJDEP had its own guideline of 40 ppt. Last year, based on the best available science, the NJDEP adopted an enforceable regulation or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOA of 14ppt, which became effective in 2021. The limit is applied based on a “Running Annual Average” (RAA).

Notice is a Tier 2 Violation

Middlesex Water Company received notice in early September that its South Plainfield treatment facility exceeded the new PFOA limit based on Quarterly RAA from samples collected from our treatment facility in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters of 2021. Results were 25 ppt, 23 ppt, and 36 ppt respectively. The current QRAA for PFOA is 21 ppt, which is above the MCL. Once the 4th quarter sample results are averaged into the QRAA, we can expect the water supply to continue to exceed the MCL until the new treatment is in operation. This exceedance required us to issue public notification within 30 days.

Some customers have questioned why the delay in notification. This instance is considered a Tier 2 Violation -- meaning that it is not considered **an acute threat** and, as per regulations, **notification is not required immediately (within 24 hours)**. To prepare for this, NJDEP strongly recommends the public notification language is reviewed and approved prior to issuance. Since not all customers are affected, the actual street list and recipients for this notice had to also be determined via hydraulic studies and the methodology approved by NJDEP. We also needed time for printing and mailing; and therefore, requested and received an allowable 2 week extension. Despite the perception of a delay, the initial notice was sent within the regulatory notification period established under the federal Public Notification Rule. After conducting further analysis, we have expanded the notification area beyond initial letters sent.

Implementing a Solution to meet the New Standard

It's important to note that the requirement of a new MCL standard is what triggered the violation notice, not a change in the water quality.

We understand that you may be concerned about PFOA. Exceeding the PFOA standard is not an acute situation like drinking water contaminated with E.coli (bacteria). However, people who drink water containing PFOA over the MCL, over time, have an increased risk of an adverse health effect from such consumption. Exposure to PFOA in drinking water is primarily from ingestion. According to New Jersey Department of Health's PFAS fact sheet, exposure to PFOA through other household uses of water such as showering, bathing, laundry, vegetables from the garden, dishwashing or washing vegetables is not significant.

In anticipation of the new MCL, Middlesex began exploring and designing treatment to mitigate PFOA in ground water. We are constructing upgrades to our plant, at an initial estimated cost of \$47 million, which will utilize Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration to support compliance. We expect the GAC filtration to be in service by mid-2023. In the interim, we advise all sensitive populations to consult their health care provider if they ever have any concerns with their water supply or about PFOA in their environment in general.

Learn More About PFOA so You can Make Informed Choices

We encourage you to review all of the information available on our website and make informed choices for yourself and your family members. Middlesex Water has served this region and earned the trust and confidence of its customers for 124 years. Our employees are your neighbors and your friends who drink

the same water. We are working as quickly as possible to expedite the construction of the treatment facilities to comply with the new standard.

Please view additional information that is available on our website under <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> Translated versions of the Public Notification and this letter will also be made available on that site.

Consulte la información adicional que está disponible en nuestro sitio web en <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> Versiones traducidas de la Notificación pública y esta carta también estará disponible en ese sitio.

请查看我们网站上提供的更多信息 <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> 公开通知的翻译版本。这封信也将在该网站上提供

Qǐng chákàn wǒmen wǎngzhàn shàng tíngōng de gèng duō xìnxī
<https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> gōngkāi tōngzhī de fānyì bǎnběn, zhè fēng xìnyě jiàng zài gāi wǎngzhàn shàng tíngōng

कृपया अतिरिक्त जानकारी देखें जो हमारी वेबसाइट पर <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध है।
सार्वजनिक अधिसूचना के अनूदित संस्करण और यह पत्र भी उस साइट पर उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।
krpaya atirikt jaanakaaree dekhen jo hamaaree vebasait par <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> ke antargat upalabdh hai.
saarvajanik adhisoochana ke anoodit sanskaran aur yah patr bhee us sait par upalabdh karaaya jaega.

કૃપા કરીને <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> હેઠળ અમારી વેબસાઇટ પર ઉપલબ્ધ વધારાની માહિતી જુઓ
સાર્વજનિક સૂચના અને આ પત્રના અનુવાદિત સંસ્કરણો પણ તે સાઇટ પર ઉપલબ્ધ કરવામાં આવશે.
Kṛpā karīnē <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> hēṭhaḷa amārī vēbasā'īṭa para upalabdha vadhārānī māhitī ju'ō
sārvajanika sūcanā anē ā patranā anuvādita sanskaraṇō paṇa tē sā'īṭa para upalabdha karavāmām āvaśē.

저희 웹사이트 <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/>에서 제공되는 추가 정보를 확인하십시오
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Mangyaring tingnan ang karagdagang impormasyon na available sa aming website sa ilalim ng <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> Mga isinaling bersyon ng Public Notification at ang liham na ito ay gagawin ding available sa site na iyon

ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੇਖੋ ਜੋ ਸਾਡੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> ਦੇ ਅਧੀਨ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ
ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦਿਤ ਸੰਸਕਰਣ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਉਸ ਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।
Kirapā karakē hōra jāṇakārī vēkhō jō sādī vaibasā'īṭa'tē <https://www.middlesexwater.com/alerts/> dē adhīna upalabadha hai
janataka sūcanā dē anuvādita sasakaraṇa atē isa patara nū vī usa sā'īṭa'tē upalabadha karavā'i'ā jāvēgā

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Doll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

Dennis W. Doll
Chairman, President and CEO
Middlesex Water Company

November 1, 2021