



IMPORTANT UPDATE!

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. The 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.



GOALS

- We know the letter you recently received, or will receive, may be concerning, tonight we would like to talk through the events that brought us here and shed light on our current situation.
- We will also answer your questions to the best of our ability while understanding that some questions fall within the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection or healthcare professionals, such as specific health questions.
- We want to provide assurance that:
 - MWC is taking aggressive action to resolve the issue
 - Our goal is transparency through coordination with all appropriate state agencies and your local officials



UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

- Many water systems throughout the state and country are struggling with new, stringent regulatory standards regarding PFOA levels
- PFOAs are common chemicals that can be found in every day products
- We understand health is an overarching concern. Health questions should be directed to your health care provider
- While the federal government has no set regulatory standard, it has established a health advisory guideline of 70 parts per trillion (PPT)
- New Jersey aggressively established a much stricter standard in 2020 – 14 PPT. This is not a guideline. It is a regulatory standard.
- The South Plainfield groundwater treatment facility's current Quarterly Running Annual Average for PFOA is 21 ppt.
- We are working to find a solution that will enable us to meet the new standard both in the short and long-term.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Is the water safe for drinking? Cooking? Bathing?

Exposure to PFAS in drinking water is primarily from ingestion.

Sensitive populations should seek advice from their health care provider. Exposure to PFOA through other household uses of water such as showering, bathing, washing laundry, dishwashing or washing vegetables does not pose a significant risk.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

When did the NJDEP notify MWC about the change that would be made in the amount of PFOA that would be considered harmful?

NJDEP formerly provided a health guideline for PFOA of 40 ppt. In June 2020, NJDEP formally adopted an enforceable standard for PFOA of 14 ppt. This standard became effective in 2021, with utilities required to start monitoring and reporting quarterly results to the state after January 1, 2021.

In September 2021, we were notified that samples taken from the treatment facility in South Plainfield exceeded the new standard.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

When notified, what steps did you take to correct the problem?

When we learned in 2019 that New Jersey would formally establish an enforceable standard for PFOA, we began evaluating and designing treatment options to mitigate PFOA in groundwater.

Design of the plant has been completed and construction of the treatment has begun with an expected in-service date of mid-2023.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are the possible effects of drinking the water?

MWC is focused on developing both a short-term and a long-term resolution to PFOA in groundwater supplies.

Extended, long-term exposure to PFOA may lead to health challenges in some individuals. Each person has their own unique set of health concerns and we recommend directing these questions to your healthcare provider for information as it relates to you.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Can I test my own water for PFOA?

According to the NJDEP, PFOA levels must be tested by a certified laboratory. Contact NJDEP's Office of Quality Assurance at 609-292-3950 for more information.

Can filters like the Brita filter rid the water of PFOA?

There are home water treatment devices that are certified by the NSF International to reduce the levels of PFOA. This information is available at <http://www.nsf.org> They must say they reduce PFOA.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Should I purchase only bottled water for drinking and cooking?

That is a personal decision. If you have specific health concerns, you should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

Will boiling my water help?

Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Will you subsidize the cost of filters and/or bottled water?

We are not considering this at this time because exposure to PFOA in drinking water above the MCL does not pose an acute threat or immediate health risk.

MWC is focused on developing both a short and long-term solution to address this issue.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

I know that the chemical in the water is not good for humans, what about pets and fish? Does the chemical go into fruit and vegetables grown in a garden?

Exposure to PFAS in drinking water is primarily from ingestion. We suggest you reach out to a Koi expert or contact your veterinarian to inquire.

Exposure to PFOA through vegetables from gardens and washing of vegetables is not significant.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Studies have shown a correlation between autism and PFOA. What is your position on this?

We cannot speak to any medical correlations. For more information on PFOA risks, customers are directed to the NJDEP who established the new, lowered standard, based on best available science.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How far in advance of the letter sent out to users of Middlesex Water did the Company know about the presence of PFOA in the water?

Like many other water systems in the U.S., Middlesex Water has been required to test for some PFAS as part of the USEPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring program. Middlesex Water has been reporting PFAS detections in its annual Water Quality Report to customers every year since 2008. A standard for PFOA was set by NJDEP in 2020 which became enforceable in 2021. Middlesex Water received Notice in September 2021 that its South Plainfield Treatment facility exceeded the PFOA limit.



MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The level of PFOAs in your water has increased 157% in 2021 alone. Since there is presently no remediation on your part there is no limit to how high they may go. The last reading was close to the guidance level -- not the new standard. At what point will you provide granular filters to residents?

Samples collected from our Park Ave. Treatment Plant in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters of 2021, were 25 ppt, 23 ppt, and 36 ppt respectively. MWC is focused on developing short and long-term resolutions to this issue.



MOVING FORWARD

- MWC is currently constructing a new plant capable of supporting compliance with the new standard. This facility will be completed in mid-2023.
- MWC will communicate any changes in PFOA levels or critical notifications from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to our customers
- MWC's website/social media will be updated to ensure that our customers are informed of new information in the timeliest fashion possible



MOVING FORWARD (Continued)

- MWC is working on a variety of solutions to help us maintain our high standard of clean drinking water
- MWC has filed a lawsuit against 3M corporation, the company believed to have caused the contamination



QUESTIONS?

We encourage you to visit our website for additional PFAS materials and helpful resources.

Visit us at: [MiddlesexWater.com](https://www.MiddlesexWater.com)