

## **PARK AVENUE TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT MOVING CLOSER TO COMPLETION**

As a follow-up to our October 2022 update, Middlesex Water Company is pleased to report that construction of the upgraded facility to treat Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) remains on target for completion by June 30, 2023. Our teams are working hard to navigate construction challenges and supply chain constraints related to certain required system components to ensure we can meet our in-service target date.

As a reminder, Middlesex Water has been delivering water to customers that is in compliance with drinking water standards, including the PFOA standard, once the Company switched water sources in November of 2021. In June 2022, the alternate water sources were curtailed as the Company implemented partial permanent treatment at the new treatment plant and began delivering water from that plant that met all regulatory water quality standards, including those for PFOA. Those regulatory water quality standards continue to be met to the present day.

It should be noted that Middlesex Water has always been committed to delivering quality water service over its 125 year history. It's what we do. Our water complied with all regulations before the new standard became effective. There was no change in the water we deliver. It was the regulation that changed, requiring us to implement enhanced treatment to meet the new, more stringent standard.

We're eager to get this treatment plant fully constructed and operational. The following details progress our team has made since our last comprehensive update in October 2022:

- ✓ The building has been erected and is 90% enclosed.
- ✓ Media in the permanent treatment vessels will be installed in February and hydrostatic testing of the vessels is being performed.
- ✓ Process piping has been installed and pressure tested.
- ✓ Intermediate pumps have been installed with chemical feed systems now 90% complete.
- ✓ Exterior masonry walls are complete and interior painting nears completion.
- ✓ The upgraded electrical service has been installed and natural gas service installation is in progress.
- ✓ Legal proceedings continue as we seek recovery for the upgraded plant construction costs from the alleged polluter.

As a water utility, we serve as a protector of public health. We continue to conduct routine sampling at the plant to ensure your drinking water continues to meet all state and federal quality standards. We thank our Engineering, Operations and contractor teams for strategizing collaboratively to manage through the challenges of seasonal water usage demands to bring this complex project to the finish line. We thank you for your continued confidence and support of our ongoing commitment to delivering quality drinking water.

Middlesex Water Company initially exceeded the PFOA MCL during the 3rd quarter of 2021 and, despite non-detectable levels of PFOA over the past 3 calendar quarters, we are required by regulation to continue providing quarterly web updates and public notification until the upgraded treatment process is fully functional. Please visit <https://www.middlesexwater.com/water-quality/#PFAS> for copies of prior notices and other information.

Despite our current regulatory compliance, public notification is a continued regulatory requirement under an Administrative Consent Order in place with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Under state regulations, Middlesex Water Company is required to issue a Tier 2 Public Notice to customers containing required PFOA regulatory language in February 2023. This may appear confusing because water being delivered to customers does not contain detectable levels of PFOA. The public notice being sent to customers in February 2023 should not lead you to think that the water you receive is not in compliance with the required regulatory standards. To reiterate, your drinking water currently complies with all New Jersey drinking water quality standards. But because our sampling must represent a running annual average of the four most recent quarters, and the water did not meet the standard in the first of the four previous quarters, we are required to include this regulatory language in a public notice.

Also, per the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide a quarterly update on our website until we complete all approved remedial measures and the plant is fully in operation.

As per our Administrative Consent Order, please see the required regulatory language below:

## **Important Information about your Drinking Water**

***In 2021, Middlesex Water Company had levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) above the recently enacted NJ Drinking Water Standard. However, throughout 2022 and currently, the drinking water you are currently receiving does not exceed this standard.***

In the third and fourth quarters of 2021, our water system violated a New Jersey drinking water standard. You may recall you were previously notified of the PFOA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedances in public notices issued on October 22, 2021, January 22, 2022 and August 19, 2022.

Middlesex Water Company is no longer providing water above the New Jersey PFOA drinking Water standard. This is because the Company switched water sources shortly after exceeding the standard and placed into operation an accelerated partial treatment facility at its Park Avenue Treatment Plant in June 2022. This phased approach has enabled Middlesex Water Company to effectively treat PFOA and use a portion of this important water supply before the full treatment plant is completed and goes online in 2023. This has been confirmed through sampling conducted at our treatment plant before the water enters the distribution system, demonstrating our groundwater sources containing PFOA are being treated successfully.

However, the water system continues to be in violation of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act regulations until the full and complete treatment plant is constructed and in service. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Contact us at 800-549-3802 or [info@middlesexwater.com](mailto:info@middlesexwater.com) to obtain a translated copy of the public notification materials or to request assistance.

**INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA POTABLE**

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**En 2021, Middlesex Water Company tenía niveles de ácido perfluorooctanoico (PFOA) por encima del estándar de agua potable de NJ recientemente promulgado. Sin embargo, a lo largo de 2022 y en la actualidad, el agua potable que está recibiendo actualmente no supera este estándar.**

Como saben, en el tercer y cuarto trimestre de 2021, nuestro sistema de agua violó las regulaciones de la ley de agua potable segura de Nueva Jersey. Se le notificó previamente sobre los excesos del nivel máximo de contaminantes (MCL) de PFOA en avisos públicos emitidos el 22 de octubre de 2021 y el 22 de enero de 2022 y el 19 de agosto de 2022.

Middlesex Water Company ya no proporciona agua por encima del estándar de agua potable PFOA de Nueva Jersey. Esto se debe a que la empresa cambió las fuentes de agua poco después de superar el estándar y puso en funcionamiento una instalación de tratamiento parcial acelerado en su planta de tratamiento de Park Avenue en junio de 2022. Este enfoque por etapas ha permitido a Middlesex Water Company tratar eficazmente el PFOA y utilizar una parte de este importante suministro de agua antes de que se complete la planta de tratamiento completa y entre en funcionamiento en 2023. Esto se ha confirmado mediante un muestreo realizado en nuestra planta de tratamiento antes de que el agua ingrese al sistema de distribución, lo que demuestra que nuestras fuentes de agua subterránea que contienen PFOA están siendo tratadas con éxito.

Sin embargo, el sistema de agua sigue violando las normas de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura de Nueva Jersey hasta que se construya y ponga en servicio la planta de tratamiento total y completa. Como nuestros clientes, tiene derecho a saber qué sucedió, qué debe hacer y qué estamos haciendo para corregir esta situación.

Comuníquese con nosotros al 800-549-3802 o [info@middlesexwater.com](mailto:info@middlesexwater.com) para obtener una copia traducida de los materiales de notificación pública o para solicitar asistencia.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. MWC's RAA for PFOA is 0.007 ppb.

### **What is PFOA?**

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOA has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOA has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

### **What does this mean?**

*\*People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

*\* For specific health information, see*

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_drinking%20water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf).

## **What should I do?**

- Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as plain water or juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water or a home filter designed to remove PFOA for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA.
- Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. If a water treatment device is used, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance and operation. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>. [NSF does not certify reduction of PFOA to the NJ MCL for PFOA.]
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

For more information, see the following links

<https://nj.gov/dep/pfas/drinking-water.html>

<https://nj.gov/dep/pfas/about.html>

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/standards.html>

## **What is Being Done?**

Our latest progress appears at the beginning of this update. To best support peak water usage seasons, Middlesex Water Company accelerated the construction of a portion of the treatment facility at its Park Avenue Treatment Plant, and on June 6, 2022, announced that construction of this smaller, partial treatment facility was complete and in service. This phased approach has enabled Middlesex Water Company to effectively treat PFOA before the full and complete plant goes online in 2023. Currently groundwater is successfully being treated for PFOA and is being introduced into the distribution system along with water supplied by MWC's surface water treatment plant and interconnection(s) with a neighboring water purveyor. **All PFOA results since the installation of this treatment have been and continue to be non-detect.**

For more information, please contact our Customer Service Department at 800-549-3802 or email [cwmwc@middlesexwater.com](mailto:cwmwc@middlesexwater.com)

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. \**

This notice is being sent to you by Middlesex Water Company State Water System ID#1225001

Date to be distributed by mail: February 22, 2023.