



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

**Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.**

Cold Spring Water System Has Levels of PFOA  
**Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely test our drinking water for numerous contaminants. Results we received on 3/26/2026 show **PFOA**                      levels above the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Compliance with the drinking water MCL is based on the running annual average of the four most recent quarters of test results. The current **PFOA**                      average is 14.6 ng/L(ppt), which is above the MCL. The MCL for PFOS is 18 ng/L and the MCL for PFOA is 14 ng/L.

#### What should I do?

**You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

#### What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and/or PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including decreased immune response. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

#### What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are human-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances through other sources besides drinking water.

#### What happened? What was done?

In 2023, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) implemented stricter maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFAS, setting limits at 14 ng/L(ppt) for PFOA and 18 ng/L(ppt) for PFOS, replacing the previous guideline of 70 ng/L(ppt). In 2024, PADEP required large water systems to begin sampling to ensure compliance with these new standards.

During the initial quarterly sampling, wells CS-3 and CS-4 tested below the new MCLs. However, as dry weather and drought conditions developed, we began to see increasing PFAS concentrations in subsequent sampling results. At the same time, we were aware that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was moving toward implementing a more stringent MCL of 4 ng/L (ppt).

In response, we worked with our engineering team to design treatment systems capable of reducing PFAS and PFOS levels below the anticipated EPA standard of 4 ng/L(ppt). Recognizing that design and permitting require time, we also proactively engaged with PennVEST to pursue funding for the project.

We are pleased to report that we have secured over \$2 million in grant funding, along with a low-interest loan of \$865,853, to support the construction of the PFAS/PFOS treatment system. We have issued a Notice to Proceed to the contractor and have already held our pre-construction meeting.

The project is expected to take approximately one year to complete. The primary driver of this timeline is the extended lead time for specialized treatment equipment, as many water systems across the country are simultaneously implementing similar upgrades.

In the interim, we are actively exploring measures to help reduce PFOA levels while construction is underway. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this important project. For ongoing updates, please visit our website at [www.buckinghampa.org](http://www.buckinghampa.org) and navigate to the "Safe to Sip" section.

We anticipate resolving the problem within 12 to 18 months (or the problem was resolved on \_\_\_\_\_).

For more information, please call Stephen Clark of Buckingham Township at 215-794-8834 ext.401.

*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 Stephen Clark, Director of Water & Wastewater Operations.

PWS ID#: 1090137

Date distributed: 4/24/2026