pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

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.

City of Lancaster 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 September 13, 2024 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 16 ng/L, 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?
The third quarter PFOA sample for finished water from the City‘s Conestoga Treatment Plant had unusually high results at 30.4 ng/l. This quarterly sampling reading results in the City’s Running Annual Average for PFOA being 16 ng/l, which is slightly above the DEP’s PFOA MCL of 14 ng/l. The MCL exceedance for PFOA is only for finished water from the Conestoga Treatment Plant. PFOA is present in the Conestoga River. Finished water from the Susquehanna Treatment Plant is non-detect for all PFAS compounds. The City is conducting appropriate sampling in accordance with DEP guidelines to evaluate the elevated levels of PFOA in the Conestoga River and to evaluate possible adjustments to the City’s treatment process at the Conestoga Treatment Plant. For more information, please visit our website at www.cityoflancasterpa.gov.

We anticipate that this problem will be resolved within 12 months.

For more information, please call Water Quality Laboratory of City of Lancaster at 717-291-4818.

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 City of Lancaster.

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