

Memorandum

To: All NWWA Water Customers  
From: Robert C. Bender, Executive Director  
Date: January 24, 2023

Re: New Limits on PFAS/PFOA in Public Water Supplies

Dear NWWA Customers,

You may have become aware of recent media reports about newly enacted water quality limits to be enforced by the PaDEP beginning in January 2024. These new limits further reduce the amount of PFOS and PFOA compounds in all public water supplies. The newly enacted limits for PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) are 14 parts per trillion and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) at 18 parts per trillion. For perspective, we note that many water quality experts have referred to "one part per trillion" as similar to a *single drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool!*

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with accurate information on how the new state regulations will impact the NWWA and your water supplies.

First, please be assured that the NWWA is not now, nor have we ever violated state or federal standards regulating PFAS, PFOA, or any associated contaminants in the water we supply. In fact, we are known as an industry and regional leader in providing safe and clean water to the customers we directly serve and the many municipalities and authorities that are NWWA wholesale customers.

We regularly post water testing results on our website (FAQ/Water Quality Section), including all PFOS and PFOA testing results sampled from our Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. About 97% of the water we provide comes from the Forest Park Plant. These results always meet and exceed water quality standards by a wide margin.

The remaining 3% of the water comes from backup wells located throughout our primary system and from independent wells within the satellite systems we operate.

Customers receiving water from these wells are also protected. In a manner similar to Forest Park, the water from backup and satellite wells is also tested to ensure that the water from wells also meets all state and federal regulations.

So there is no confusion, please note that the NWWA purchased the Warrington water system in 2019. That system had several wells with PFAS/PFOA contamination. Warrington Township shut down those wells before our ownership. (Warrington was then purchasing water from the NWWA). *The contaminated wells have remained closed and have never been operated while under the ownership of the NWWA.*

We are now installing state-of-the-art PFOS/PFOA filtration systems to remedy the problem at those well sites. An additional advanced filtration system will follow this to remove dissolved solids (minerals) to comply with state standards and to further enhance the water quality.

These wells will not be placed back into service until the filter installations are completed, and the wells have been third-party tested to confirm compliance with all water quality standards.

*Equally important, we will insist that the wells meet our high-quality standards - which often exceed state and federal regulations.*

All other wells in our system are receiving similar scrutiny. Although we do not have any wells operating in violation of water quality standards, in an abundance of caution, and to avoid any future issues, we plan to install advanced filtration systems on those wells over the next few years.

The bottom line is that the water provided by the NWWA is always safe and clean and meets or exceeds all applicable water quality standards.

We are a water industry leader and fully intend to remain as such.

Please take a few moments to review our Forest Park Video by following the link on our website. Also, please do not hesitate to call our water quality staff at either of our business offices if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and interest in our operations.

North Wales Water Authority

*Robert C. Bender*

Robert C. Bender  
Executive Director