

CITY OF ORANGE AND SUEZ ACTIVATE PLAN TO ADDRESS DRINKING WATER STANDARD

New solutions will address issues of PFAS

Orange water is safe to drink and use for all purposes. The EPA's website states, "The EPA's health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS offers a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water."

Per the EPA's Health Advisory Level, your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

Over the past year, the City of Orange Township, in collaboration with SUEZ, has made moves to address water quality standards designed to reduce levels of PFAS in drinking water.

PFAS, also known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are a group of manmade chemicals (PFOS, PFOA, PFNA and PFHxS). PFAS have been used for decades in the manufacture of firefighting foam, paints, cleaners, adhesives, non-stick surfaces and even cosmetics. These substances are prevalent in our food, our air, our water and in products we use regularly. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), most people have been exposed to some types of PFAS such as PFOA and PFOS.

The US Environmental Protection Agency does not currently have federal MCLs (maximum contaminant levels) for PFAS compounds. It does have a lifetime 70 ppt (parts per trillion) health advisory level for the sum of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. To put into perspective, 1 ppt is equivalent to about 30 seconds out of every million years.

In 2018, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established an MCL for PFNA at 13 ppt. On March 31, 2020, NJDEP adopted MCLs for PFOA at 14 ppt and PFOS at 13 ppt in addition to the existing regulations on PFNA. Utilities were required to start monitoring for PFOA and PFOS in addition to PFNA and report quarterly results to the state after January 1, 2021. First quarter results for the City of Orange Township have shown that PFOA levels are 23 ppt, or 9 ppt above the MCL for this compound. The City is confident that the new solutions introduced by SUEZ over the next year will assist in removing PFOA from the drinking water.

"SUEZ engineers and water quality experts began identifying solutions in 2020," said Water Superintendent Kathrina Nease of the City of Orange Township Water Utility. "The company's and City's proactive approach to testing our water quality has provided insight on the work that is to come. We expect permanent solutions to be in place by 2022 and look forward to expanding these health and safety measures into our distribution system."

To read more on PFAS in drinking water, please refer to the NJDEP Study found [HERE](#).