

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW
COMMISSIONER

August 23, 2017

[REDACTED]
WAINSCOTT NY 11975

Re: Private Well Survey # SV0317

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) is conducting a survey of well water quality in your neighborhood. The testing is being performed to determine impacts from possible contamination and is free of charge.

If you are served with a private well and you would like to have your water tested, please contact this office. In addition, please complete the attached questionnaire and fax or mail it back to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Water Resources, at 360 Yaphank Avenue, Suite 1-C, Yaphank, NY 11980

Should you have any questions, please contact this office at (631) 852-5810.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Condos
Public Health Sanitarian
Office of Water Resources

Enclosures



OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES - DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
360 Yaphank Avenue, Suite 1-C, Yaphank, NY 11980
(631) 852-5810 Fax (631) 852-5787

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW
Commissioner

August 23, 2017

[REDACTED] LAPPIN
WAINSCOTT NY 11975

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please complete the questionnaire below and fax or mail it back to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Water Resources. Should you have any questions, please call (631) 852-5810.

SURVEY # SV0317

Owner Name: [REDACTED] LAPPIN
Site Address: [REDACTED] INDUSTRIAL RD
WAINSCOTT NY 11975

Contact phone# _____

Please check one of the following:

The above house currently has a private well as its only water source.

If above is checked, please answer the following:

- I would like my water tested by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.
(please complete the enclosed ***Request For Private Water Analysis form.***)
- I do not want my water tested by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at this time.

The above house is connected to a public water supply (i.e., Suffolk County Water Authority) and **I do not have any private wells.**

The above house is connected to a public water supply (i.e., Suffolk County Water Authority) and **has a private well for irrigation or other purposes.**





FACT SHEET

PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories



Overview

EPA has established health advisories for PFOA and PFOS based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science to provide drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents. EPA is committed to supporting states and public water systems as they determine the appropriate steps to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. As science on health effects of these chemicals evolves, EPA will continue to evaluate new evidence.

Background on PFOA and PFOS

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes.

Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals, although there are a limited number of ongoing uses. Scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested, but these studies show that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing. While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

EPA's 2016 Lifetime Health Advisories

EPA develops health advisories to provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. In 2009, EPA published provisional health advisories for PFOA and PFOS based on the evidence available at that time. The science has evolved since then and EPA is now replacing the 2009 provisional advisories with new, lifetime health advisories.

FACT SHEET

PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories

EPA's 2016 Lifetime Health Advisories, continued

To provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water, EPA established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS should be compared with the 70 parts per trillion health advisory level. This health advisory level 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.

How the Health Advisories were developed

EPA's health advisories are based on the best available peer-reviewed studies of the effects of PFOA and PFOS on laboratory animals (rats and mice) and were also informed by epidemiological studies of human populations that have been exposed to PFASs. These studies indicate that exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes).

EPA's health advisory levels were calculated to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects to the most sensitive populations: fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants. The health advisory levels are calculated based on the drinking water intake of lactating women, who drink more water than other people and can pass these chemicals along to nursing infants through breastmilk.

Recommended Actions for Drinking Water Systems

Steps to Assess Contamination

If water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion, water systems should quickly undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope and localized source of contamination to inform next steps

Steps to Inform

If water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion, water systems should promptly notify their State drinking water safety agency (or with EPA in jurisdictions for which EPA is the primary drinking water safety agency) and consult with the relevant agency on the best approach to conduct additional sampling.

Drinking water systems and public health officials should also promptly provide consumers with information about the levels of PFOA and PFOS in their drinking water. This notice should include specific information on the risks to fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed and formula-fed infants from exposure to drinking water with an individual or combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS above EPA's health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion. In addition, the notification should include actions they are taking and identify options that consumers may consider to reduce risk such as seeking an alternative drinking water source, or in the case of parents of formula-fed infants, using formula that does not require adding water.

FACT SHEET

PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories

Recommended Actions for Drinking Water Systems, continued

Steps to Limit Exposure

A number of options are available to drinking water systems to lower concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in their drinking water supply. In some cases, drinking water systems can reduce concentrations of perfluoroalkyl substances, including PFOA and PFOS, by closing contaminated wells or changing rates of blending of water sources. Alternatively, public water systems can treat source water with activated carbon or high pressure membrane systems (e.g., reverse osmosis) to remove PFOA and PFOS from drinking water. These treatment systems are used by some public water systems today, but should be carefully designed and maintained to ensure that they are effective for treating PFOA and PFOS. In some communities, entities have provided bottled water to consumers while steps to reduce or remove PFOA or PFOS from drinking water or to establish a new water supply are completed.

Many home drinking water treatment units are certified by independent accredited third party organizations against American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards to verify their contaminant removal claims. NSF International (NSF®) has developed a protocol for NSF/ANSI Standards 53 and 58 that establishes minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of point-of-use (POU) activated carbon drinking water treatment systems and reverse osmosis systems that are designed to reduce PFOA and PFOS in public water supplies. The protocol has been established to certify systems (e.g., home treatment systems) that meet the minimum requirements. The systems are evaluated for contaminant reduction by challenging them with an influent of $1.5 \pm 30\%$ $\mu\text{g/L}$ (total of both PFOA and PFOS) and must reduce this concentration by more than 95% to $0.07 \mu\text{g/L}$ or less (total of both PFOA and PFOS) throughout the manufacturer's stated life of the treatment system. Product certification to this protocol for testing home treatment systems verifies that devices effectively reduces PFOA and PFOS to acceptable levels.

Other Actions Relating to PFOA and PFOS

Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer, 3M. EPA also issued regulations to limit future manufacturing, including importation, of PFOS and its precursors, without first having EPA review the new use. A limited set of existing uses for PFOS (fire resistant aviation hydraulic fluids, photography and film products, photomicro lithography process to produce semiconductors, metal finishing and plating baths, component of an etchant) was excluded from these regulations because these uses were ongoing and alternatives were not available.

In 2006, EPA asked eight major companies to commit to working toward the elimination of their production and use of PFOA, and chemicals that degrade to PFOA, from emissions and products by the end of 2015. All eight companies have indicated that they have phased out PFOA, and chemicals that degrade to PFOA, from emissions and products by the end of 2015. Additionally, PFOA is included in EPA's proposed Toxic Substance Control Act's Significant New Use Rule (SNUR) issued in January 2015 which will ensure that EPA has an opportunity to review any efforts to reintroduce the chemical into the marketplace and take action, as necessary, to address potential concerns.

FACT SHEET

PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories

Other Actions Relating to PFOA and PFOS, continued

EPA has not established national primary drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS. EPA is evaluating PFOA and PFOS as drinking water contaminants in accordance with the process required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). To regulate a contaminant under SDWA, EPA must find that it: (1) may have adverse health effects; (2) occurs frequently (or there is a substantial likelihood that it occurs frequently) at levels of public health concern; and (3) there is a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for people served by public water systems.

EPA included PFOA and PFOS among the list of contaminants that water systems are required to monitor under the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3) in 2012. Results of this monitoring effort are updated regularly and can be found on the publicly-available National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucomr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule#3>). In accordance with SDWA, EPA will consider the occurrence data from UCMR 3, along with the peer reviewed health effects assessments supporting the PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories, to make a regulatory determination on whether to initiate the process to develop a national primary drinking water regulation.

In addition, EPA plans to begin a separate effort to determine the range of PFAS for which an Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment is needed. The IRIS Program identifies and characterizes the health hazards of chemicals found in the environment. IRIS assessments inform the first two steps of the risk assessment process: hazard identification, and dose-response. As indicated in the 2015 IRIS Multi-Year Agenda, the IRIS Program will be working with other EPA offices to determine the range of PFAS compounds and the scope of assessment required to best meet Agency needs. More about this effort can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/iris/iris-agenda>.

Non-Drinking Water Exposure to PFOA and PFOS

These health advisories only apply to exposure scenarios involving drinking water. They are not appropriate for use, in identifying risk levels for ingestion of food sources, including: fish, meat produced from livestock that consumes contaminated water, or crops irrigated with contaminated water.

The health advisories are based on exposure from drinking water ingestion, not from skin contact or breathing. The advisory values are calculated based on drinking water consumption and household use of drinking water during food preparation (e.g., cooking or to prepare coffee, tea or soup). To develop the advisories, EPA considered non-drinking water sources of exposure to PFOA and PFOS, including: air, food, dust, and consumer products. In January 2016 the Food and Drug Administration amended its regulations to no longer allow PFOA and PFOS to be added in food packaging, which will likely decrease one source of non-drinking water exposure.

Where Can I Learn More?

- EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- PFOA and PFOS data collected under EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule are available: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>
- EPA's stewardship program for PFAS related to TSCA: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfass-under-tsca>
- EPA's research activities on PFASs can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/perfluorinated-chemical-pfc-research>
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Perfluorinated Chemicals and Your Health webpage at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/PFC/>



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Frequently Asked Questions PFOS and PFOA in Groundwater

What is PFOS?

PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), along with a similar chemical known as PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), are part of a class of chemicals known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). PFCs have been used in a number of industrial and commercial products such as firefighting foam, as well as coatings that repel water, oil, stains and grease. They have been used in textiles, food packaging and non-stick cookware; though many major manufacturers in the United States have agreed to voluntarily reduce the content of PFCs in their products.

Information About PFOS and PFOA in Drinking Water

Is there a drinking water standard for PFOS or PFOA?

There are currently no chemical-specific federal or New York State drinking water standards for PFOS or PFOA; however they are both regulated as Unspecified Organic Contaminants by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a level of 50 parts per billion (ppb). The concentrations detected in the groundwater in Suffolk County have not exceeded this level.

Are there chemical-specific guidelines for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water?

Yes. In May of 2016 the US EPA developed a health advisory for PFOS and PFOA. Health advisories are non-enforceable, non-regulatory levels in drinking water that are developed by the US EPA to provide information on contaminants that may be found in drinking water. They provide information on potential health risks from exposure to a chemical. In addition, the health advisories provide information on appropriate actions that can be taken when chemicals are detected in drinking water.

The drinking water health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA is 0.07 parts per billion (ppb), which is the same as 70 parts per trillion (ppt). When both PFOA and PFOS are detected in a water supply, the combined concentration should be compared to the 0.07 ppb health advisory. This health advisory has been established to provide everyone, including the most sensitive populations (developing fetus and infants who may be breastfed or fed formula mixed with water), with a margin of protection from exposure to PFOS and PFOA in drinking water, even if that exposure were to occur throughout their life.



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Can exposure to PFOS and PFOA affect my health?

The US EPA evaluated the current evidence from studies in laboratory animals (rats and mice) as well as reviewed disease incidence (epidemiological studies) in humans that may have been exposed to PFOA and PFOS and determined that exposure to PFOS and PFOA may result in adverse health effects, depending upon the amount and duration of exposure. These studies indicated potential risks to the developing fetus if exposure occurs over certain levels during pregnancy, as well as effects to breastfed infants whose mothers may drink contaminated water. These effects include low birth weight, early puberty, and skeletal variations. For the general population, exposure at sufficient levels could increase the risk of developing cancer (specifically testicular and kidney), as well as effects on the liver, thyroid, immune system and changes in cholesterol levels. For more information see the USEPA Health Advisory Fact Sheet at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf

Are there other sources of exposure to PFOS and PFOA in addition to drinking water?

Yes. Because PFOS and PFOA have been used in many products, people can be exposed from many sources other than drinking water. The general public can be exposed from contact with soil, dust, air and water contaminated with PFOS and PFOA. Food can be a significant source of exposure to PFOS and PFOA, and carpets that treated with PFC-containing products would also be a potential source of exposure for small children.

In 2006, the US EPA invited the major United States manufacturers of PFCs to participate in a Stewardship Program. The companies committed toward eliminating emissions and product content by 2015. Participating companies have met the program goals. (Information on the program is available at <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/fact-sheet-20102015-pfoa-stewardship-program#mfg>.)

If my drinking water had concentrations of PFOS or PFOA above the US EPA Health Advisory will my health be adversely affected?

The US EPA health advisory level does not represent the concentration in drinking water above which health effects are expected. The health advisory level, 0.07 ppb, was established, with a margin of protection, at a concentration in water that is not anticipated to result in adverse health effects if an individual consumes water containing that concentration over the course of their lifetime. It is also designed to be protective of pregnant and nursing mothers, who may consume more water than an average person.

As the concentration in drinking water increases above the health advisory, the margin of protection is diminished and the level of comfort that health effects will not occur decreases. Therefore, if your water is above the health advisory level, it is recommended that you take steps to reduce your exposure to PFOS or PFOA by using alternate water for consumption.

If my water contains PFOS or PFOA is it OK to use it to shower or bathe?

Showering or bathing does not appear to be a significant source of exposure to PFOS or PFOA.

Is there a blood test that can determine whether I have been exposed to PFOS or PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA can be measured in blood, though it is not a routine test that can be performed in a doctor's office or commercial laboratory. A blood test would show whether a person has been exposed. Studies have shown that a large proportion of the general population have detectable levels of PFOA and PFOS in our blood due to the widespread exposure to these substances. However, those results do not



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mean the person will develop an adverse health effect. There is not yet enough information to know what level of PFOA or PFOS in blood may be associated with adverse health effects. In addition, a blood test will not identify whether the source of the PFOS or PFOA exposure is from drinking water or other sources.

Contacts for more information

- For general questions about PFOS or PFOA and health, contact New York State Department of Health at 1-518-402-7860.
- Residents who have questions about private well water in Suffolk County or would like to have their wells tested, contact the SCDHS Office of Water Resources at 631-852-5810.
- Residents may wish to contact the Suffolk County Water Authority at 631-698-9500:
 - to find out if they are served by public water, or
 - are interested in connecting to public water, or.
 - for information about the quality of the public water (see also : http://s1091480.instanturl.net/dwqr2016/2016_DWQR_FINAL_5-31-16.pdf)
- As a precaution, the Town of East Hampton has offered to provide bottled water to property owners in the Wainscott private well survey area. If you use a private well for your drinking water and live in the Wainscott survey area you may contact the Town of East Hampton Purchasing Department at (631) 324-4183 or e-mail jcarroza@eamptonny.gov to receive bottled water.

www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health/pfcwaterinfo

10-16-17



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