



# Water Works

October 22, 2021

Dear Customer:

Enclosed you will find a "Notice About Your Drinking Water". The Department of Environmental Services requires that we send you the enclosed notice because four of MVD's wells have exceeded the state Maximum Contaminant Level ("MCL") for PFOA. Please note, however, that the water you are actually receiving as of the date of this notice does not contain a PFOA exceedance. This is because MVD, in conjunction with Pennichuck ("Pennichuck") Water Works, have an arrangement for MVD to temporarily obtain water from Pennichuck in order to provide MVD customers with compliant water.

MVD is also taking other measures as well to address the presence of PFOA in its wells. But by way of background, the New Hampshire legislature passed legislation in 2020, setting new MCLs for four compounds of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances), with the MCL for PFOA at 12 ppt. The MCLs became effective August 24, 2021.

Even before the new MCLs were passed, MVD began working to install treatment plants at its Wells in order to bring PFOA levels down, and below the MCL. The treatment system for Wells 4 and 5 has been in operation since October 2020, with PFOA treatment of Wells 7 & 8 and Wells 2 & 3 to follow.

The treatment system for Wells 7 & 8 was scheduled to be online, and provide PFOA MCL-compliant water this October 2021 but one of the specially made treatment vessels coming from Iowa was damaged en route and was sent back for repairs. That treatment system is now scheduled to be on-line in the Spring of 2022. The treatment system for Wells 2 & 3 is so far on target with completion anticipated in the Fall of 2022.

As for the cost for treatment, MVD has filed suit in NH Superior Court against the parties responsible for PFOA contamination of MVD's wells. MVD has secured some grant funding but continues to pursue additional grants through NHDES for PFOA treatment.

We know a notice like this can be confusing and concerning, but ultimately know that you are receiving PFOA MCL-compliant water thanks to the combined efforts of Pennichuck and MVD even though MVD's wells themselves exceed the PFOA MCL. During the time that MVD receives water from Pennichuck, MVD will shut down Wells 2, 3, 7 & 8 – however, these wells may be brought online when absolutely necessary to meet supply demands or in an emergency. This water, however, will be mixed with Wells 4 & 5 water and with Pennichuck water so we anticipate the water you receive will remain PFOA MCL-compliant in such an instance. In order to assist in these efforts, we do ask that you consider your water consumption and reduce it when possible to try and avoid high demand requiring these Wells be turned on.

Any questions or concerns, please call Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Administrator at (603) 424-9241 x103.

# NOTICE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceedance

Public Water System Name: **Merrimack Village District**

PWS ID: **1531010**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. NHDES mandated quarterly testing and reporting for 4 consecutive quarters to determine if public water systems are in compliance. This notice does not mean there was an increase in levels previously reported.

The Running Annual Average (RAA) calculation represents the average of all sample results collected within a one-year period. Your drinking water RAA calculation is above the enforceable MCL for the following:

Exceedance: Quarter 3-2021

Date Collected: July 15, 2021

Violation of NH Admin. Rule: Env-Dw 712

Contaminant	MCL (nanograms/L)	Site ID/ Location	Results for the Past 12 months (most recent first)	Running Annual Average
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>	<b>12 ng/L</b>	504-GPW 3 CAMP SARGENT TREAT HOUSE / 003	19.4 ng/L 27 ng/L 15.3 ng/L 17.1 ng/L	20 ng/L
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>	<b>12 ng/L</b>	505-GPW 2A BERRY LANE TREATMENT HOUSE / 008	11.7 ng/L 12.9 ng/L 12.8 ng/L 13.4 ng/L	13 ng/L
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>	<b>12 ng/L</b>	508-FINISHED WATER/WTP/BLEND 007 009	25.8 ng/L 25.6 ng/L 23.4 ng/L 23.6 ng/L 26.2 ng/L	25 ng/L

**This is not an emergency.** If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

Some people who drink water containing perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels, and may have an increased risk of getting certain types of cancer. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.

**What should I do?** If you have concerns about increased health risks, alternative water for drinking and cooking can be utilized. If you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional. General health-related questions may be directed to the NHDES Environmental Health Program at (603) 271-6802.

**Steps being taken to correct the situation:**

- MVD is pursuing PFOA Treatment Systems for all MVD wells. Wells 7 & 8 and Wells 2 & 9 are scheduled to be complete in Spring and Fall of 2022 respectively. Wells 4 & 5 currently have treatment for PFOA.
- MVD is temporarily flowing PFOA water that is below the PFOA MCL from Pennichuck Water Works into the MVD system in order shut down Wells 2, 3, 7 & 8 until those treatment systems are complete. Wells 2, 3, 7 & 8 will only be used if they are absolutely necessary to provide additional supply or in case of emergency.
- MVD has filed suit in NH Superior Court against the parties responsible for PFOA contamination of MVD's wells.
- MVD is pursuing grant funding through NHDES for PFOA treatment.

**Contact Info:**

Merrimack Village District, 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH 03054

Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Testing Administrator (603) 424-9241 x103

*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.*