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.

BCWSA New Hope Water System Has Levels of PFOS Above Drinking Water Standards

BCWSA's New Hope Water System recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What happened?

A new regulation was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) in January of this past year for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The regulation set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) at 18 parts per trillion (18ng/L) for PFOS and 14 parts per trillion (14ng/L) for PFOA. Compliance for these compounds is based off a running annual average (RAA) that is calculated quarterly. BCWSA has been testing for these compounds prior to the regulation being issued, so when the results were received for the second quarter of 2024, we were able to calculate a RAA. When this was done, one of the entry points in the New Hope System had a RAA that exceeded the new MCL for PFOS of 18ng/L. The calculated RAA found in your water was 21ng/L.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply or boil your water. However, should you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. However, exposure to PFOS and PFOA over the MCL may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including decreased immune response.

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 is being done?

In anticipation of the new regulations, BCWSA has been conducting PFAS testing and investigating treatment options for their removal. A study was concluded last month on a new technology utilizing samples of BCWSA's water. We are expecting to have pricing and a full report on the study before the end of May and move forward with a permit application for a treatment process. Once PA DEP approves the permit, installation and treatment can begin.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bcwsa.net.

Please share this information with others who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e. 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.

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