

The following is required language from the New York State Department of Health

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PFOA MCL Exceedance at SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in your drinking water at a maximum concentration of 19 ppt. This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA in public drinking water systems. The MCL is set well below levels known or estimated to cause health effects and below the EPA's Health Advisory Level of 70 ppt. Consuming drinking water with PFOA at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

What are the health effects of PFOA?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA, like many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals or humans. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure.

PFOA has caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. Additional studies of high-level exposures of PFOA in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOA as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of PFOA detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about PFOA in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA. If found above the MCL of 10 ppt, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

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What is being done to meet the MCL?

SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols is working with the Tioga County Department of Health on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA. The company plans to install advanced treatment, such as activated carbon filters, one of the most effective treatments for the removal of this substance, or make operational changes to reduce levels.

Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols at 607 687 2233 or mail to 128 North Avenue Owego, NY 13827 You can also contact the Tioga County Department of Health at (845) 364-2595.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID#**Date, 2020**

End of required language from the New York State Department of Health

SUEZ has provided more information on its website:

- www.nysuezwq.com

Please also find additional information at:

- <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/docs/water_supplier_fact_sheet_new_mcls.pdf

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