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Ridgewood Water

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SUPPLEMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

RIDGEWOOD WATER PLANNING WATER QUALITY OPEN HOUSES

Our commitment to water quality includes keeping you informed about Ridgewood Water's regular maintenance, system upgrades, and compliance with new and evolving regulations for drinking water.

Ridgewood Water has plans to hold Water Quality Open Houses in Wyckoff, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Glen Rock in early fall. Our professional staff and technical experts will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about what we're doing to provide our customers with quality drinking water.

Dates, times and locations will soon be posted on

www.water.ridgewoodnj.net



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

As your water system, we are contacting you to provide supplemental information to the 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, which was issued this summer. We received results from the first two rounds of monitoring of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and it's important to share them with you. The monitoring was performed voluntarily, in recognition that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is currently developing guidance and criteria using assumptions on PFAS that are protective of human health for exposure over a lifetime. *Please read the following information so that you are aware of the current levels of PFAS in your drinking water and what Ridgewood Water is doing in cooperation with NJDEP to provide you with quality drinking water.*

BACKGROUND

What Are PFAS? PFAS do not occur naturally, but are widespread and extremely persistent in the environment. They are man-made chemicals that have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes.

Why Did Ridgewood Water Test For PFAS? As part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Rule 3 (UCMR3), Ridgewood Water first collected data from its 27 active treatment plants in 2014 and 2015 to determine the general occurrence of some unregulated contaminants, including PFAS. UCMR3 monitoring helps the EPA and NJDEP to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether they should consider regulating those contaminants in the future. Since then, both EPA and NJDEP have continued to study PFAS.

Are There Standards For PFAS? Currently, there are limited drinking water regulations or enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFAS compounds. EPA health advisories are recommended guidance, not regulatory requirements, intended to offer health-protective advice to water systems in the absence of enforceable standards. To date, NJDEP has focused its efforts on three PFAS compounds: PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS. An MCL for PFNA was adopted by the NJDEP on September 4, 2018. NJDEP has recently issued new guidance for PFOA and PFOS and is in the process of pursuing an MCL for each. Information on the current status of this guidance and regulations can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/emerging-contaminants>.

Ridgewood Water applauds the EPA and NJDEP for developing drinking water guidance, criteria and effects of PFAS. To learn more, links to additional information resources are on page 3.

PFAS Testing Results and Actions Ridgewood Water Is Taking

In May 2016, EPA announced plans for a health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), either combined or individually, for PFOA and PFOS. Ridgewood Water's UCMR3 sampling results from 2014 and 2015 indicated that one of its 27 treatment plants (then active) had levels of PFOA and PFOS that, when combined, were above 70 ppt. In anticipation of the EPA guidance, Ridgewood Water removed the treatment plant from the system in January 2017 and the water supply met all regulatory standards for drinking water when the guidance was set.

In late 2017, NJDEP notified Ridgewood Water of its plans to set a guidance value for PFOA and we voluntarily followed their recommended actions in preparation for the announcement. This included testing all treatment plants in the system for a suite of 14 PFAS compounds, including PFOA, PFOS and PFNA. Results indicate that low-levels of PFOA are widespread in the system, with 24 of 25 tested treatment plants measuring levels above the proposed NJDEP MCL. Lower levels of PFOS were detected at or below the recently proposed NJDEP MCL. All treatment plants measured PFNA levels well below the newly established NJDEP MCL.

In response, Ridgewood Water has and is taking action, including:

- Shutting down the Carr Treatment Plant, in January 2017, which had the greatest potential to introduce PFAS compounds into the system. A treatment system using granular activated carbon (GAC), a technology proven to effectively reduce PFAS compound levels, is anticipated to be complete by summer 2019, pending award of the construction contract in fall 2018.
- Evaluating alternate treatment methods, in an effort to reduce installation and maintenance costs related to future treatment.
- Monitoring quarterly to identify levels, and assess plants that should be targeted for future treatment investments.
- Following the science to determine likely PFAS sources, and potentially responsible parties who should be working to help address the levels.
- Communicating with wholesale providers about their PFAS levels and collaborating on solutions for treatment.
- Continuing to report levels and actions being taken to NJDEP and our customers.

Science and Technology Continue to Evolve

Significant improvements in analytical testing allow for water systems to identify and test for compounds at much lower levels than previously possible. As technology has advanced, contaminants we used to measure in the millions can now be measured in billions, or in some cases as low as the trillions. Enhanced testing capabilities now permit detection down to as low as 2 parts per trillion. As a result, unregulated contaminants that have been present in the water supply for years are only now being evaluated because of enhanced data collection and testing capabilities. For that reason, Ridgewood Water considers it imperative to participate in unregulated contaminant testing to proactively and continuously improve water quality and maintain safe drinking water standards.

Ridgewood Water's Sampling Results
All levels shown are in parts per trillion (ppt)

Contaminant	NJDEP Guidance/MCL	EPA Health Advisory Levels	Levels Detected in Ridgewood Water*
PFOA	14 (Proposed MCL) Updated in October 2017; previously 40 ppt	70 ** (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced in May 2016	Range = 8.13 – 30.6 System Average = 21.78 (2 Rounds)
PFOS	13 (Proposed MCL) Updated in August 2018	70 ** (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced in May 2016	Range = ND – 13.9 System Average = 6.82 (2 Rounds)
PFNA	13 (MCL) Established on September 4, 2018	None Established	Range = 0.45 – 3.91 System Average = 1.38 (2 Rounds)

* Test results through July 2018 from all active treatment plants.

** EPA health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS is a maximum of 70 ppt either individually, or combined.

Helpful Resources

While the technology exists to measure smaller and smaller amounts of emerging contaminants, the science of understanding the meaning of those levels is still evolving. Because PFAS compounds are widespread in the environment, many organizations are working to better understand how exposure to them might affect people's health. Here are links to a few additional resources:

http://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/emerging-contaminants/>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/pfas>

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information>

Ridgewood Water remains committed to providing our customers with high-quality drinking water.

For more information on how Ridgewood Water is working to provide customers with a quality water supply, please visit our website at water.ridgewoodnj.net and attend one of our upcoming Drinking Water Quality Open Houses this fall. Event dates, times and locations will soon be posted to our website.

Please share this information with 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.

This notice is being sent to you by Ridgewood Water, PWSID# NJ0251001. This Notification was distributed on or about September 2018.

