



Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

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For Immediate Release (05/13/2019)

(Cedar Knolls, NJ) — The Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA) is in compliance with all Federal and State primary regulations and has released the 2018 Annual Water Quality Report that can be found at <http://smcmua.org/2018WaterQualityReport.pdf>. SMCMUA is providing information as part of this notification in response to a recently released report by researchers at the Environmental Working Group (EWG) that was also reported on by Patch-Morristown.

The EWG report discussed Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances referred to as PFAS chemicals in drinking water sources. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), “PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that include Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), GenX (a trade name for a processing aid technology developed by DuPont (now Chemours) and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.” The PFAS chemicals are used to manufacture products such as Teflon, firefighting foams, stain and water repellent fabrics, food packing, etc.

The PFAS chemicals are currently unregulated at the Federal level; however, the USEPA has developed a PFAS Action Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>). The PFAS Action Plan includes a regulatory determination for potential regulation of PFAS chemicals. Congress has formed a bipartisan PFAS Task Force that will work to better protect communities from the harmful effects of these PFAS chemicals. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has enacted legislation for one (1) and has proposed legislation for two (2) of the PFAS chemicals as summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1
NJDEP PFAS Regulatory Status**

| PFAS Chemical | Acronym | Regulatory Status | Maximum Contaminant Level |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| Per-fluorononanoic acid | PFNA | NJDEP Regulation Established | Maximum contaminant level of 13 ng/L, or 13 ppt, based on a running annual quarterly average. |
| Per-fluorooctanesulfonic acid | PFOS | NJDEP Proposed Regulation | Proposed 13 ng/L, or 13 ppt, based on a running annual quarterly average. |
| Per-fluorooctanoic acid | PFOA | NJDEP Proposed Regulation | Proposed 14 ng/L, or 14 ppt, based on a running annual quarterly average. |

The Authority has monitored for PFNA, PFOS and PFOA, along with other PFAS chemicals, for each of its 12 sources on an annual basis since 2014 and has increased the frequency to quarterly as of 2019. The increased monitoring is responsive to a regulatory required monitoring program. A summary of the results for PFNA, PFOS and PFOA are provided in Table 2, where the minimum and maximum results (range) for each category of source water are provided. As indicated in Table 1, the NJDEP compliance calculation is based on a running annual average based on data collected on a quarterly basis and not on discrete sample results as presented in Table 2.

**Table 2
Authority PFNA, PFOS and PFOA Monitoring Data for
Authority Owned and Purchased Water Sources
2014 to 2019 Range of Results Reported
(Compliance Calculated on a Quarterly Running Annual Average)**

| Location | NJ MCL | | NJ Proposed MCL | |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| | PFNA | | PFOS | PFOA |
| | 13 | | 13 | 14 |
| | ng/L or ppt | | ng/L or ppt | ng/L or ppt |
| Authority Owned Well Systems | ND | | ND to 7.6 | 2.4 to 13 |
| Authority Owned Clyde Potts Reservoir | ND | | ND | 2.8 to 4.1 |
| Authority Monitoring Data for the Passaic Valley Water Commission Interconnection | ND to 2.1 | | 4.8 to 7.7 | 7.6 to 14 |
| Authority Monitoring Data for the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) Interconnection | ND | | ND | 2.0 to 2.2 |

CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICE: Consumers can report non-emergency questions or concerns to our Customer Service Division at 973-326-6880 or customerservice@smcmua.org. Emergency conditions should be reported directly to 973-867-1758.

You can also find information for our water system, such as sampling results, on NJDEP's Drinking Water Watch available at https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION: SMCMUA requests that account holders maintain current contact information to aid in communications for billing, service and for emergency purposes. Contact Customer Service to confirm your account information is accurate.

REGISTER FOR CITIZEN ALERTS: SMCMUA requests that all consumers who live and/or work in the service area register with **SMCMUA's Alert Notification System**, or updated your preferences on the **Morris County Citizen Alert Notification System**, to better ensure the timely delivery of emergency notices associated with water supply, quality or other important messages. If you do not have access to a computer please ask a relative, friend or neighbor to register for you; otherwise, you can register at www.smcmua.org and choose the REGISTER FOR CITIZEN ALERTS icon.

SMCMUA was established in December of 1976. SMCMUA provides drinking water to approximately 62,000 consumers in Morris County. The SMCMUA creating municipalities are the Town of Morristown, the Township of Morris, the Township of Hanover and the Borough of Morris Plains.