

**Township of Jefferson**

**Information Release**

**2-2-2023**

**RE: PFOA Notice-Milton Water Utility Customers**

It appears that clarification is needed with regard to the letter/notice that was recently mailed out earlier this week to the Water Utility customers on the Milton Water system. This notice does not apply to the Vassar & Lake Hopatcong system. The Mayor and I apologize for the hysteria and alarm that this letter may have caused. First, we want to assure our customers that our water is safe to drink. If it were not, the NJDEP would have forced the Township to discontinue the usage of this one affected well.

The Township utilizes numerous wells in the Milton section, and this one PFOA exceedance affected only one of the Moosepac wells located off Chamberlain Road. The Township operates two at this site.

The history of this sampling for PFOA dates back to January of 2022, when our level for PFOA was higher than normal at 21 ppt (parts per trillion), and the NJ DEP standard is 14 ppt. This is a quarterly test that is completed and is a newer test that has only been required since 2021. The PFOA levels tested in April were at 13 ppt and in July 12.2 ppt, both under the NJ DEP limit; however, a running annual average is created with the prior samples causing the Township to be higher on the PFOA. Due to the exceedance in January of 2022 and based on the average, the NJDEP notified the Township in May of 2022 that a Tier #2 notification which included a mailing to customers, must be completed in June of 2022, in November of 2022, and February 2023.

We believed the first two notices were mailed previously; however, based on the response we have received from residents, we are investigating why many have claimed they did not receive the prior notices. Unfortunately, our Director of Municipal Utilities has been on leave, and we have to await his return to complete our inquiry. The Township has also maintained and posted this information on the Township website. Previous and current notices can be found at <https://www.jeffersontownship.net/Search?searchPhrase=pfoa>

In the interim, be rest assured that the water coming from the Moosepac well was only high in PFOA's in January of 2022 and has met the NJDEP required levels on all samples taken since that time. We did not intend to alarm our residents with this latest notice; we had reasons to believe that all were notified previously and were following the regulations set forth by NJDEP. Unfortunately, the content and information contained in the notice has to be verbatim from NJ DEP.

In addition, the Township is examining treatment options to address any potential exceedance in the future and will continue to work with NJDEP as we try to meet all the required needs of our residents. Our sincerest apologies for causing you unnecessary concern regarding the safety of our drinking water.

Eric F. Wilsusen  
Mayor

Debra J. Millikin  
Business Administrator