

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER PFOS MCL Exceedance at Pinewood Knolls Water District

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in Well #1 at 12.0 ng/l (03/25/2026) and (PFOS) in Well #2 at 12.3 ng/l (3/25/2026). This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOS in public drinking water systems. Consuming drinking water with PFOS at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant short-term health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. The Pinewood Knolls Water District is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL.

What are the health effects of PFOA and PFOS?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOS, like many chemicals, comes mostly from studies of high-level exposure in animals. 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.

PFOS has caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. PFOS also causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Additional studies of exposures of PFOS in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans.

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

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOS. 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.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

The Town has awarded the bid for the Pinewood Knolls interconnection. Work will commence in May of 2026. Residents were mailed a letter notifying them of the project status. This project will improve the water quality to the Pinewood Knolls Water System.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the East Fishkill Water and Sewer Department at 845-223-5114. You can also contact the DCDOH at 845-486-3404.

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.

General information about New York State public drinking water is also available at www.health.ny.gov/publicwater.

Information from the NYS DOH regarding emerging contaminants and PFOA/PFOS can be found at:
https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/emerging_pfas_publicwater.htm

Public Water System ID# NY1302785

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