



Dear City Water Customers,

We are pleased to inform you that the recent sample results for PFOA, a type of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) also known as forever chemicals, in the Conestoga River were lower than the PA Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) mandated maximum contaminant level. However, we're still required to send you the enclosed letter notifying you of elevated levels of PFOA because the annual running average remains above DEP's mandated level.

With the drought over and river levels returning to normal, we are hopeful that next quarter's sample results from drinking water sourced from the Conestoga River will result in the running annual average for PFOA being below the DEP's mandated level, bringing water sourced from the Conestoga River into full compliance once again.

For more information on PFAS, you can read guidance from the US Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/pfas. The City of Lancaster also has information and test results posted at www.cityoflanasterpa.gov/pfas.

Sincerely,

Danene Sorace

Mayor

Stephen Campbell

Director of Public Works

Christine Volkay-Hilditch

Deputy Director of Public Works, Utilities

To receive free interpretation services for this letter in another language, please email citylanguageaccess@cityoflanasterpa.gov or call 717-517-5738.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

City of Lancaster Has Levels of PFOA Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

The City of Lancaster routinely tests drinking water for numerous contaminants. Results received on June 10, 2025, for the Conestoga Treatment Plant show a PFOA level of 12.8 ng/L, which is below the drinking water MCL. While the latest results indicate improvement, the long-running annual average for PFOA remains above the MCL threshold. Compliance with drinking water regulations is based on the long running annual average of the four most recent quarters of test results, and the current PFOA average stands at 20.1 ng/L, exceeding the MCL of 14 ng/L. The MCL for PFOS is 18 ng/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and/or PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are human-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances through other sources besides drinking water. Drinking water exposure is about 20% per the USEPA¹.

What happened? What was done?

The second quarter PFOA sample for finished water from the City's Conestoga Treatment Plant had a result of 12.8 ng/l. This quarterly sampling reading results in the City's Running Annual Average for PFOA being 20.1 ng/l, which is above the DEP's PFOA MCL of 14 ng/l. The MCL exceedance for PFOA is only for finished water from the Conestoga Treatment Plant. PFOA is present in the Conestoga River. Finished water from the Susquehanna Treatment Plant is non-detect for all PFAS compounds. The City is conducting appropriate sampling in accordance with DEP guidelines to evaluate the elevated levels of PFOA in the Conestoga River and to evaluate new treatment technology at the Conestoga Treatment Plant or a new water source.

For more information, please call the Water Quality Laboratory of the City of Lancaster at 717-291-4818.

Please share this information with all the 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 the City of Lancaster.

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¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2018 Edition of the Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Tables. EPA 822-F-18-001, Office of Water, March 2018. Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-01/dwtable2018.pdf>