



THE COMMISSIONERS OF THURMONT

615 East Main Street
P.O. Box 17
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

HEALTH ADVISORY NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Elevated Level of PFOS/PFOA

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)

Town of Thurmont, MD0100023

Testing results from samples taken on October 5, 2022 by the Maryland Department of the Environment in one of our drinking water wells detected elevated levels of PFOS/PFOA. Although this incident is not an emergency and we are compliant with MDE requirements, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to address this situation.

Testing results from samples taken on October 5, 2022 by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) show an elevated level of PFOS/PFOA at the system's water treatment plant for WTP – Wells 3, 4, 9, 7 and WTP 8. PFOS/PFOA detections found were:

WTP – Wells 3, 4, 9 (PFOA = 8.21 ppt, PFOS = 10.5 ppt)
WTP – Well 7 (PFOA = 4.73 ppt, PFOS = 23.6 ppt)
WTP – 8 (PFOA = 8.31 ppt, PFOS = 37.4 ppt)

What should I do?

- **There is nothing you need to do.** You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

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 PFOA over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes). The EPA calculates Health Advisory levels to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects to the most sensitive populations: fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants.

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These chemicals are manmade and do not occur naturally in the environment. Due to the fact that these chemicals have been used in a number of consumer products and industrial applications for decades, most people have been exposed to them throughout their lifetime. The chemical stability of PFOS and PFOA also makes them very persistent in the environment.

What is being done?

We will continue to monitor and sample our drinking water sources on a regular basis, in compliance with MDE regulations.

For more information, please contact publicnoticequestions@thurmontstaff.com.
Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water.

This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Thurmont,
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