

Town of

East Lyme Water Dept.

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East Lyme

108 Pennsylvania Ave

Niantic, Connecticut 06357

January 2nd, 2024

Dear East Lyme Water Customers,

We are writing to inform you that during recent EPA testing of the Town's public water system, the East Lyme Water Department has detected per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in two of the seven well sites that serve the town. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that are widely used in consumer products and industrial processes and can be found in items such as:

- Cleaning Products
- Water-resistant fabrics such as rain jackets, umbrellas and tents
- Grease-resistant paper and food packaging
- Nonstick cookware
- Personal care products, such as shampoo, dental floss, nail polish, and makeup
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets and upholstery
- Fire fighting foams

These chemicals have been in use for over 50 years and can enter the environment many different ways including spills, leaks, or the use cycle of PFAS-containing products. Unfortunately, because of extensive use of PFAS, these chemicals are appearing in public water supplies across the country, and their detection is a widespread issue that is not unique to the Town of East Lyme.

It is important to note that the water that is currently being supplied by the East Lyme Water Department is in compliance with all State and Federal drinking water standards.

The levels of PFAS detected in two of the seven well sites in town were found at very low concentrations and are below any required action levels of current Connecticut public health guidelines for drinking water. We are testing for these chemicals down in the parts per trillion range, which is equivalent to a drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

We want our customers to be assured that the East Lyme Water Department is committed to continuing to provide safe and high-quality drinking water *that meets or exceeds all State and Federal water quality standards*. We have already begun exploring advanced treatment methods and alternative sources of water to reduce and/or eliminate PFAS in our water system. We will be working closely with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to monitor the situation and implement additional actions as necessary. Most importantly, we will be keeping you updated on our plan and our progress.

We have included a table of the PFAS compounds that we have detected in our system. All other well sites not listed do not have detectable levels of PFAS, and because our various well pumps blend into one system before the drinking water is delivered to you, your individual exposure will likely be lower than these results.

Water Source/Location	Amount Detected	DPH Drinking Water Advisory Level	Results Below the DPH Drinking Water Advisory Level?
Well 1A/6 WTP Flanders Area	PFOA – 4.5 ppt PFOS – 5.8 ppt	16 ppt 10 ppt	Yes
Well 4A WTP Niantic Area	PFPeA – 5.5 ppt PFHxA – 5.4 ppt PFOA – 9.2 ppt PFBS – 4.8 ppt PFOS – 3 ppt	N/A 240 ppt 16 ppt 760 ppt 10 ppt	Yes

**ppt = parts per trillion WTP = Water Treatment Plant*

We understand that you may have questions or concerns about PFAS and your health. We encourage you to visit the DPH website (portal.ct.gov/dph/environmental-health/PFAS/PFAS) or call the DPH Drinking Water Section at 860-509-7333 for more information on PFAS, health effects, exposure routes, and ways to reduce your exposure. The East Lyme Water Department can be contacted by calling 860-691-4104 or by emailing watersewer@eltownhall.com if you have any questions or regarding our findings and the steps we are taking to address this issue.

We will be holding an informational meeting at our next water and sewer commission meeting at East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Ave in Niantic on January 23rd at 7 pm. We encourage you to attend this meeting to learn more about this issue and ask us any questions in person that you may have.

Providing safe drinking water to the East Lyme community is our highest priority. Our staff is committed to producing and delivering the best quality drinking water to our customers. We appreciate your attention, cooperation, and trust as we continue to upgrade our systems.