



THE TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH

PO BOX 109
214 GARFIELD PKWY
BETHANY BEACH DE 19930
Telephone (302)539-8011
Fax (302) 539-8149

DE Water System ID# 0000556

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Update on PFOS/PFOA in the Town of Bethany Beach Drinking Water System

Background Information

Since 2022, the Town of Bethany Beach Water Department has proactively tested for PFOS/PFOA in the drinking water system in preparation of the EPA legislation issued April 2024 which set enforceable limits on these chemicals. This testing included samples from untreated water at all four production wells, as well as treated water at the point of entry to the distribution system. Additionally, in 2023 the Town was selected to participate in the EPA unregulated contaminant monitoring rule number 5 (UCMR5) which required sampling at the point of entry to the distribution system two times in a 12-month period, five to seven months apart to test for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as well as lithium. **We are pleased to announce that testing results show non-detection for all PFOS and PFOA chemicals in the Town of Bethany Beach drinking water system.** These results have been made available on the Town of Bethany Beach website and can be found at: [2024 PFOS/PFOA Lab Test Results](#)

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What does this mean?

People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.

For specific health information please see: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_general_4.9.24v1.pdf

For any additional questions please contact Bethany Beach Town Hall at (302)539-8011.