



## TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

### DEPARTMENT OF WATER

1995 PROSPECT AVENUE • EAST MEADOW, N.Y. 11554-3100

(516) 794-8300 • FAX# (516) 794-1355

February 5, 2021

Anyone  
123 Any Street  
Town State and Zip

Dear Anyone,

We are sending you, our customer and neighbor, this letter to inform you of some important developments concerning water quality regulations and Department of Water operations and rates.

New York State Department of Health recently began regulating 1,4-dioxane and the perfluorinated compounds PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. The regulation of 1,4-dioxane at 1 part per billion and PFOS and PFOA at 10 parts per trillion is based on recommendations made by the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council and went into effect on August 25, 2020. The Department of Water has begun designing and procuring the necessary treatment systems to remove these newly regulated compounds; however, in order to be in compliance, the department will need to put into service 16 new advanced oxidation process (AOP) treatment systems and 5 additional granular activated carbon (GAC) systems. The cost of installing and operating those systems is expected to exceed \$100,000,000 over the next five years.

Recognizing the time required to design and build these systems, the Town of Hempstead Department of Water has been granted a compliance deferral by the New York State Department of Health for the newly established regulations on these contaminants. This deferral will allow the department a two-year timeframe to design, construct, and place into service these treatment systems. Consumers can learn more about what this compliance deferral means, and the actions being taken by the department, by visiting the emerging compounds information page on the Department of Water webpage at [HEMPSTEADNY.GOV/WATER-DEPARTMENT/ECI](http://HEMPSTEADNY.GOV/WATER-DEPARTMENT/ECI). Regular updates will be provided on this page to keep you informed of the progress on these projects.

In an effort to minimize the financial impacts these new regulations have to our customers, the Department of Water has initiated two lawsuits against a number of manufacturers of 1,4-dioxane, PFOS and PFOA seeking to recover the costs of treating contaminated water to remove the chemicals from our wells, however, these cases could take years to come to resolution, and we cannot wait that long to install these treatment systems. In order to fund the construction of these treatment plants within the deferral timeline, the Department of Water will be implementing a \$25 quarterly fee to be added to customer bills beginning with the first bill of 2021. In addition to our legal actions, the Department of Water will continue to pursue any grant opportunities which may become available to defer these treatment costs.

Should you have any questions regarding these new regulations or to obtain a paper copy of the deferral notification, please contact the Water Department's Water Quality Division at 516-296-7245.

Sincerely,

John Reinhardt  
Commissioner of Water