

The City of Camden and its contracted water system operator American Water take water quality and safety very seriously. The City is taking a proactive approach to remain compliant with new water quality standards mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP). The water in the Camden system currently meets or surpasses all drinking water standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In advance of new NJ DEP regulations around emerging compounds, the City and American Water have been working together for over two years on an operational plan that will improve the City's ability to provide safe drinking water to the Camden community, as well as provide adequate quantity and pressure for essential services in the City.

To maintain water quality compliance, the City significantly reduced the use of its Parkside wells and has removed a number of wells in the Morris and Delair wellfield from service. The City entered into a 10-year bulk water agreement with New Jersey American Water to supplement its water system while the City installs improvements to these facilities.

The City and American Water have identified a team of experts to address PFAS and 1,4-dioxane through an investment project, which has been separated into two phases:

*Phase 1:* The first phase is underway with pilot testing, design engineering and permitting for the Parkside facility. Construction on new treatment facilities, a new building, and other improvements will begin late Summer 2021. To minimize disruption to residents and businesses, the building will be situated on Vesper Blvd. The project will take approximately six to eight months to achieve operational completion and the building containing the improvements should be completed by the end of 2022 and will include additional parking spots for public use.

*Phase 2:* The City will address both PFAS and 1,4-dioxane treatment for the Morris and Delair wellfields at the former Puchack plant site, which is no longer in service. This work will commence in late 2022 and is projected to take approximately two years to complete.

The City, American Water, and the Camden Collaborative Initiative, led by Cooper's Ferry Partnership, will work together to provide educational information to and engage with residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders about this important water quality project and the impact to those in the areas where construction is taking place.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is Camden's water safe?**  
Yes. The water in the Camden system currently meets or surpasses all drinking water standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- **How often does is the water tested in Camden?**  
American Water samples and monitors the City's water to maintain compliance on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. The water in the City of Camden's system currently meets or surpasses all current EPA and NJDEP standards for safe drinking water.
- **If the NJ DEP did not implement new regulations, would the City of Camden need to purchase water/enter into a water sales agreement with New Jersey American Water?**  
No. If new regulations were not mandated by the state, Camden would not have to enter into an agreement with New Jersey American Water. However, to remain in compliance, Camden will supplement its current water supply in order to meet new regulations and help maintain adequate quantity and pressure for fire protection throughout the City while treatment is being planned and built.
- **Does this improvement project include New Jersey American Water customers in Camden?**  
No, New Jersey American Water's supply is from its Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Plant, which uses the Delaware River as its primary source. This is why the City is able to supplement its water system using New Jersey American Water's supplies while installing these improvements.

- **Will Camden water customers see an increase in rates?**

There is no immediate rate increase planned as a result of this project. However, like every other water utility, with the additional capital investment needed to provide drinking water that is compliant with NJ DEP regulations, moderate increases can be expected in the future.

- **Are emerging compounds a Camden specific issue?**

No. There are multiple challenges the water industry faces when it comes to water quality. This is why American Water remains steadfast in its commitment to be a leader in the U.S. water and wastewater industry and a provider of solutions to these challenges. The partnership between the City of Camden and American Water provides the City with access to their resources for the benefit of Camden residents and businesses.

- **What are emerging compounds (PFAS/1,4-dioxane)?**

- **PFAS:** PFAS are a large group of manufactured organic chemicals that are used in a variety of products for their nonstick properties (e.g., Teflon, Scotchgard), as well as in industrial applications such as firefighting.
  - **PFAS Regulation:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a Health Advisory Level of 70 nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (ppt) for combined PFOA and PFOS. The NJDEP recently adopted maximum contaminant levels (MCL) of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 13 ppt for PFOS. NJ DEP set an MCL for PFNA at 13 ppt in 2017 with compliance monitoring beginning in 2020. These MCLs became effective in January 2021. Many water providers in New Jersey have made similar plans to remain in compliance with the new regulations, including removing wells from service and building new treatment to address PFAS in their systems.
- **1,4-dioxane:** 1,4-dioxane is a manmade compound that is used as a solvent or solvent stabilizer in manufacturing and industrial processes. It is also a by-product of the formulation of detergents, personal care products and cosmetics. Many manufacturers are beginning to voluntarily remove 1,4-dioxane from consumer products.
  - **1,4-dioxane Regulation:** No Federal or New Jersey drinking water standard has been established for 1,4-dioxane. Under its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) cited a reference concentration of 0.35 parts per billion (ppb). EPA does not require any specific action if UCMR monitoring results exceed a reference level. Occurrence data is used to determine if regulation is needed. In February 2020, USEPA decided not to proceed with a preliminary regulatory determination. However, New Jersey is expected to begin the process of setting state regulations for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water by end of 2021 at approximately 0.33 parts per billion. Once an MCL is established, water providers generally have one year to install treatment or change sources before the rule becomes effective.

- **How long has American Water been working with the City of Camden?**

New Jersey American Water has owned the water system serving the Cramer Hill and East Camden sections of Camden since the 1800s when it was Stockton Water Company, representing one-third of the City.

The remaining two-thirds of the City's water system and all the City's wastewater system is operated and managed by American Water Contract Services Group, through a contract with the City of Camden that began on February 1, 2016.

American Water Contract Services operates and maintains the water supply and distribution system assets owned by the City of Camden Division of Utilities and serves residents living west of the Cooper River, as well as the wastewater and stormwater collection and conveyance systems for the entire City. American Water and the City continue to work closely together to provide clean, safe and reliable drinking water for residents and businesses.

Additionally, American Water opened its new Corporate headquarters in Camden in 2018. To learn more about American Water's ongoing partnership with the Camden community, visit: [amwater.com/camden](http://amwater.com/camden).