

David VanLuven
Town Supervisor

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Albany County - New York



Paul Penman
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054

(518) 439-4955 x1135

PPenman@townofbethlehem.org

Town of Bethlehem Releases Latest Test Results for PFAS in New Scotland Drinking Water Sources

Levels meet all federal & state standards for treated drinking water

Additional testing was conducted to address community concerns

Contact: David VanLuven, Town Supervisor
(518) 801-2454, dvanluven@townofbethlehem.org

Bethlehem, NY, March 6: Today, the Town of Bethlehem released its latest test results for PFAS in untreated water from the Vly Creek Reservoir and wells in the New Scotland Wellfield. To address public concerns about the application of biosolids in the area, the tests were conducted in addition to the Town’s required water sampling. The data covers 25 per- and polyfluorinated alkyl compounds (PFAS), including all PFAS regulated in treated drinking water by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Health.

The test results show the PFAS levels in the Town’s untreated water are compliant with all federal and state drinking water standards.

Only one federal and state-regulated PFAS was detected. PFHxS was found at 2.46 parts per trillion in New Scotland Wellfield Well #2. The level is well below the EPA’s Maximum Contaminant Level (drinking water standard) of 10 parts per trillion, which goes into effect in 2029.

The results for the untreated water in Vly Creek Reservoir and wells within the New Scotland Wellfield are as follows. Because the test results provided by the Town’s contracted lab mentioned drinking water values, the Town of Bethlehem is providing the EPA’s more stringent drinking water standards for maximum transparency.

Vly Creek Reservoir (ng/L = nanograms per liter = parts per trillion)

Regulated PFAS	Concentration (ng/L)	Report Limit (ng/L)	EPA Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (ng/L)
PFOA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	4 (NYS level is 10)
PFOS	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	4 (NYS level is 10)
PFHxS	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
PFNA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
HFPO-DA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
PFBS (part of Hazard Index)	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	No separate standard. Part of calculation of 5 total PFAS. Divided by 2000.

New Scotland Wellfield – Well #1 (ng/L = nanograms per liter = parts per trillion)

Regulated PFAS	Concentration (ng/L)	Report Limit (ng/L)	EPA Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (ng/L)
PFOA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	4 (NYS level is 10)
PFOS	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	4 (NYS level is 10)

PFHxS	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
PFNA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
HFPO-DA	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	10 (No NYS level)
PFBS (part of Hazard Index)	<1.81 (non-detection)	1.81	No separate standard. Part of calculation of 5 total PFAS. Divided by 2000.

New Scotland Wellfield – Well #2 (ng/L = nanograms per liter = parts per trillion)

Regulated PFAS	Concentration (ng/L)	Report Limit (ng/L)	EPA Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (ng/L)
PFOA	<1.83 (non-detection)	1.83	4 (NYS level is 10)
PFOS	<1.83 (non-detection)	1.83	4 (NYS level is 10)
PFHxS	2.46	1.83	10 (No NYS level)
PFNA	<1.83 (non-detection)	1.83	10 (No NYS level)
HFPO-DA	<1.83 (non-detection)	1.83	10 (No NYS level)
PFBS (part of Hazard Index)	<1.83 (non-detection)	1.83	No separate standard. Part of calculation of 5 total PFAS. Divided by 2000.

Detections of four unregulated PFAS were made at extremely low parts per trillion levels. PFBA was found in the Vly Creek Reservoir at 2.24 ng/L or parts per trillion. Three were found in New Scotland Wellfield Well #2: PFHpA (1.85 ng/L), PFHxA (2.97), and PFPeA (4.05).

The EPA estimates that approximately 80% of a typical person’s PFAS exposure comes from consumer products such as cookware, cosmetics, food wrappings, stain and water-resistant clothing, and carpet and furniture treatments. They are also in bandages, deodorants, contact lenses, dental floss, toilet paper, and menstrual products. People can also be exposed to PFAS through eating foods containing them, especially fish. The EPA estimates that nationally 20% of a typical person’s exposure to PFAS comes from drinking water.

The Town of Bethlehem does not produce or use a single drop of PFAS in our treatment processes. In addition to consumer product use, PFAS have been found in the air, biosolids, pesticides, and rainwater.

More information on the US EPA’s drinking water standards can be found [here](#).

More information on the NYS Dept of Health drinking water standards can be found [here](#).

Regardless of the challenges posed by PFAS, the Town of Bethlehem is committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water that protects public health. While the Town of Bethlehem meets all federal drinking water standards (including those that do not take effect until 2029) and state drinking water standards, we are taking the following proactive actions:

- We will continue to participate in all required federal and state testing of our raw/untreated water.
- We will continue to assess additional treatment options for both our New Scotland and Clapper Road Water Treatment Plants to ensure our drinking water continues to be safe and meets all federal and state drinking water standards.
- We will finalize the Source Water Protection Plan for the town’s drinking water supplies (being developed with guidance from the NYS Department of Health) and work to implement recommendations to keep potential contaminants from entering our untreated water in the first place.

- We will continue to openly communicate about water testing results, including those for regulated and unregulated PFAS chemicals, to ensure transparency with the public. We encourage our customers and residents to read our fact sheet on PFAS [here](#).

“The Town is pleased to report that our untreated water meets the most rigorous federal and state standards for treated drinking water, as well as the state’s surface water quality guidance,” said David VanLuven, Bethlehem’s Town Supervisor.

“The safety of our drinking water is our highest priority,” VanLuven continued. “We know this is a state and national issue causing public concern, and the Town will continue to actively work to deliver safe drinking water now, to protect our water sources and prepare for future changes, and to transparently report all future test results.”
