

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Exemption from 1,4-dioxane MCL

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical 1,4-dioxane in the drinking water above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane. The MCLs are set well below levels known to cause health effects in animal studies. Therefore, consuming water with 1,4-dioxane at the level detected does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

The Liberty New York Water, Merrick Operations District has requested, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has conditionally granted, an exemption from the MCL for 1,4-dioxane. Exemptions are issued with mandatory compliance strategies which include control measures required by the Department. In exchange, the Department agrees to defer enforcement actions, such as assessing fines, if the water district is meeting the established deadlines. We are required to update the Department and the Nassau County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the mandated compliance strategies, the Department can resume enforcement.

What are the health effects of 1,4-dioxane?

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused liver cancer in animals exposed at high levels throughout their lifetime. Other types of cancer have also been reported, although less consistently than liver cancer. There is no evidence of 1,4-dioxane cancer effects in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers 1,4-dioxane a likely human carcinogen based upon studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of 1,4-dioxane detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below 1,4-dioxane exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about 1,4-dioxane in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for 1,4-dioxane. If found above the MCL of 1 ppb, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

Liberty New York Water, Merrick Operations District is working with the Nassau County Department of Health on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of 1,4-dioxane.

The effected wells within Liberty New York Water's Merrick District, which have 1,4-Dioxane levels above the MCL, are Wells 3A and 4 at the Seaman's Neck Road Plant. To remove 1,4-Dioxane from the water produced from these wells, Liberty New York Water is currently constructing an advanced oxidation process ("AOP") treatment facility at the Seamans Neck Road Plant. To supplement water supply to the Seamans Neck vicinity during construction of the AOP treatment system, Liberty will construct two (2) booster pumping stations within its system that will sustain water pressures to Seamans Neck vicinity customers. Liberty continues to promote conservation and reduced irrigation usage to its customers to both protect the health of our aquifers and reduce reliance on effected wells during peak irrigation demands.

Liberty New York Water will operate the impacted wells in the Merrick Operations District in a last on first off sequence to minimize their use. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Liberty New York Water at (877) 426-6999 or by mail at 60 Brooklyn Avenue, Merrick, NY 11566. You can also contact the Nassau County Health Department at (516) 227-9697. Copies of the quarterly updates submitted to the Department and to Nassau County Department of Health will be available on Liberty Utility's New York Water website at [Emerging Compounds - New York Water - Residential \(libertyutilities.com\)](https://www.libertyutilities.com).

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID# NY2902840

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