



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale want to provide accurate information, a historical overview and updates concerning Well 17 and the Borough's ongoing efforts to ensure safe drinking water for all residents.

HISTORY OF WELL 17 (NJ WATER WATCH TP004020)

Well 17, located at the end of Ethel Ave in the northern area of Allendale, was commissioned in 1966. This location was selected based on a number of key factors, including such hydrogeological assessments as depth of water table, aquifer depth and drawdown rate. Well 17 provides approximately 20% of the water used by Allendale residents annually. The Borough has been treating the water at this location for decades and there is currently a structure housing the treatment on this site. There are two historical easements filed when the well was commissioned on an Ethel Ave property; one for Well 17 and one for the pipes that are utilized to distribute water from the well. Easements are disclosed at the time of a property purchase. The site has been listed in NJDEP's Water Watch as a Well (WL004006) and a Treatment Plant (TP004020) for more than twenty years.

TREATMENT FOR DRINKABLE WATER

To ensure potable (drinkable) water, water must be treated as required by Federal and State regulations and routinely tested to make sure standards are met or exceeded.

- Water from Well 17, as with all Allendale wells, has been treated for over 30 years with sodium hypochlorite (concentrated household bleach) to kill potential pathogens.
- *The photograph circulating on social media of a worker in a mask depicts a routine delivery of sodium hypochlorite as indicated by its identification number on Veolia's truck and on Well 17. OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) suggests workers in close proximity to sodium hypochlorite (concentrated bleach) for an aggregate time over the course of their shift wear proper safety equipment, including masks and gloves.*
- To address the state lead and copper requirements, zinc orthophosphate is also added for corrosion control. This required, non-toxic solution creates a protective film on the interior of pipes, reducing metal leaching into the water. Veolia has been working to identify and replace old lead lines throughout Allendale to comply with this NJ Lead and Copper mandate at their expense.

TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN **NO CHANGE** IN THE TREATMENT OF THE WATER FROM WELL 17.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

New PFAS Treatment regulations: per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals used in various products for their grease, stain, and water-resistant properties. They are known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment and human body. PFAS chemicals have been linked to numerous health issues, including increased risk of certain cancers.

Federal and State regulations now require the reduction of PFAS contaminants (PFOA, PFOS and others) to less than 4 parts per trillion (PPT) in drinking water. Treatment systems eliminate PFAS compounds by filtering them out. The systems are equivalent to a giant Brita Filter. The system size and large vessels are necessary and driven by the significant volume of water to be treated and the extended contact time for the water to filter out the PFAS compounds.

This treatment is NOT currently in place.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

SALE OF THE WATER SYSTEM

The sale of the water system continues to ensure ongoing compliance to meet today's health, safety and environmental regulations, something Allendale was no longer equipped to meet. Faced with regulatory violations, aging infrastructure and lack of technical expertise, it was apparent that a long-term solution needed to be explored. To engage the community, a series of educational presentations were held to inform residents about the challenges and options. Ultimately, Allendale voters overwhelmingly approved the sale of the water system through a public referendum. The successful bidder was SUEZ, who managed the system since 2013. SUEZ was later acquired by Veolia.

Ensuring the delivery of safe, clean drinking water has always been—and remains—our top priority. As new contaminants emerge and regulatory requirements grow increasingly complex, it has become even more evident that the decision to sell to Veolia was the right one. Retaining ownership of the system would have placed an unsustainable financial burden on our small municipality, potentially requiring tens of millions of dollars just to meet evolving standards, excluding the costs of water main repairs and daily operations.

VEOLIA, EASEMENTS & THE BOROUGH

With the sale of our water system, the easements related to operations of the system transferred to Veolia. Veolia has the legal responsibility to treat new and emerging contaminants. Residents living near Well 17 have expressed opposition to enlarging the current treatment structure to house the mandated PFAS filtration treatment. Veolia believes this additional treatment is allowable on the easements; the homeowners with the property easements do not. To date, the Borough has not received any building plans and therefore no building codes were violated.

There is now a lawsuit and unfortunately the Borough has been brought into it. The question of overburdening the easement by adding the PFAS filters is being decided in court. Veolia has been instructed by the judge NOT to pursue the installation of PFAS treatment at Well 17 at this time.

The most recent test at Well 17 (TP004020) shows an 8.24 ppt result for PFOA, more than double the EPA maximum contaminant level.

Veolia continues to maintain the well with no changes, only sodium hypochlorite and zinc orthophosphate as explained above. This has been confirmed by the Borough engineer.

Borough elected officials have met with Veolia executives on several occasions, including just last week. The Mayor and Council members have urged them to look for alternate locations and have even provided information regarding Borough-owned sites to explore. Due to the optimal location of Well 17, exploring alternate sites has been a challenge.

The Mayor and Council fully understand the concerns of the residents who live in the area of Well 17 and that a larger structure is not desired. This is a complex situation in which Veolia is responsible for providing clean drinking water to all Allendale residents but has now been ordered by the court to stop the planning process to filter PFAS at this site, which provides 20% of the water to our residents.

The Mayor and Council truly hope there is a mutually agreeable solution and reaffirm our commitment to advocating for the wellbeing of all residents.

Our next TOWN HALL is scheduled for June 3rd at 7:00pm at the community center.

The Allendale Mayor & Council