



2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Manchester Township Water Utility Western Service Area

We are pleased to present you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for our Western Service Area. This area generally includes that portion of the Whiting section of the Township lying southeast of Manchester Boulevard, northwest of Lake Road and along Station Road. In February 2010, the Township purchased from Crestwood Village Water Company the water system that serves this portion of the Township. This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water provided last year. This report includes details about where the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Manchester Township Water Utility tests and treats its drinking water according to EPA's regulations. **Last year, all test results met Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards.**

The Manchester Township Water Utility – Western Water System (PWSID #1518004) obtains its raw (untreated) water from eight wells sunk between 90 and 1225 feet into two underground sources of water called the Cohansey and the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy (PRM) Aquifers. The Township controls the property around these wells and restricts any activity that could contaminate them. All of our water is treated at one of five treatment facilities located at or near the wells.

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for our wells that draw water from the Cohansey Aquifer. The Report and Summary are available at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. NJDEP has not completed the Source Water Assessment for our newest well that draws water from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer.

The source water assessment performed on our seven wells that draw water from the Cohansey Aquifer determined susceptibility ratings for each of the wells in eight contaminant categories. The following table summarizes the results of the assessments by providing the number of wells rated high (H), medium (M) and low (L) in susceptibility to each contaminant category.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
7 Wells	0	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	6	1	0	7	0	0	0	5	2	0	7	0

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels.

NJDEP found the following potential contaminant sources within the source water assessment areas for our wells: underground storage tanks at eight facilities, three known contaminated sites and a solid waste landfill. If you have any questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary, please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at swap@dep.state.nj.us or 609-292-5550.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the

**EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791**

The Manchester Township Water Utility – Western Water System tests and treats its drinking water according to EPA's regulations. **Last year, all test results met Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards.**

Any questions regarding the water provided by the Manchester Township Water Utility – Western Water System or this report may be directed to the Township's Department of Utilities at 1 Colonial Drive, Manchester, NJ 08759, (732) 657-8121. Also, the Manchester Township Council meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Municipal Complex at 1 Colonial Drive.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the following table is from testing conducted during 2015. The State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of those contaminants do not change frequently. As a result, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. The presence of the detected contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. In fact, **all detections were within the EPA and State drinking water health standards.**

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, lead, copper, volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds. Our system received a monitoring waiver for synthetic organic compounds for the last three-year compliance cycle, 2011-2013. We are awaiting the State's determination for the next three-year compliance cycle, 2014-2016. In addition, the system received a reduction in the monitoring requirements for volatile organic compounds to sampling once every three years at four treatment facilities and once every year at one treatment facility; for lead and copper to thirty samples, once every three years; and for radiological contaminants to one sample every three years at three treatment facilities, one sample every six years at one treatment facility and one sample every nine years at another treatment facility.

Special considerations regarding children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and others: Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

Terms & abbreviations used below

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ND: not detectable at testing limit
- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter - equivalent to 1 inch in 16 miles or 1 penny in \$10,000
- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter – equivalent to 1 inch in 16,000 miles or 1 penny in \$10,000,000
- pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- n/a: not applicable

2015 WATER QUALITY TABLE

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Inorganic Contaminants ⁽¹⁾					
Barium (ppm) ⁽¹⁾	2	2	0.09	ND-0.09	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) ⁽¹⁾	4	4	0.07	ND-0.07	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm) ⁽²⁾	10	10	1.55	ND-1.55	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits
Organic Chemical Contaminants⁽³⁾					
Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether [MTBE] (ppb) ⁽³⁾	70	70	2.5	ND-2.5	Leaking underground gasoline and fuel oil tanks; Gasoline and fuel oil spills
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM's] (ppb) ⁽⁴⁾	n/a	80	4	ND-6.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radiological Contaminants ⁽⁵⁾					
Gross Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	2.7	4.3–10.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 Combined (pCi/l)	0	5	0.9	ND-3.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	0	30	3.0	ND-11.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection ⁽⁶⁾					
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	0.7	0.2 – 1.2	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead & Copper ⁽⁷⁾					
	MCLG	AL	LEVEL AT 90 th PERCENTILE	# OF SAMPLES ABOVE AL	
Lead (ppb)	0	15	5	3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.13	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

⁽¹⁾ Testing for inorganic contaminants including barium and fluoride is required at each treatment facility once during each three-year compliance cycle. In 2014, samples for inorganic contaminants were taken at four of our five treatment facilities. We did not operate one of our facilities during 2014 and thus no sample was taken at that facility. Samples were last taken at that facility in 2011. The Water Quality Table includes detection results for inorganic contaminants from four of our facilities during 2014 and from our fifth facility during 2011.

- (2) Testing for nitrate is required each year at each treatment facility. In 2015, samples for nitrate were taken at four of our five treatment facilities. We did not operate one of our facilities during 2015 and thus no sample was taken at that facility. Samples were last taken at that facility during 2012. The Water Quality Table includes detection results for nitrate from four of our facilities during 2015 and from our fifth facility during 2012.
- (3) The required frequency of testing for volatile organic contaminants including methyl tertiary-butyl ether at our treatment facilities varies depending upon prior test results. Samples for volatile organic contaminants were taken at two of our five treatment facilities during 2015 and at two of our treatment facilities during 2014. We did not operate one of our treatment facilities during 2015 and thus no sample was taken at that facility. Samples were last taken at that facility in 2011. The Water Quality Table includes the detection results for volatile organic contaminants from two of our facilities during 2015, two of our facilities during 2014 and from our fifth facility during 2011.
- (4) Tested in 2015. Testing for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) in the distribution system is required during each quarter at 4 locations. Compliance with drinking water standards is based upon the average of 4 quarterly samples at each of the sampling locations.
- (5) The required frequency of testing for radiological contaminants is based upon prior sampling results and varies among our treatment facilities. Samples were taken at one treatment facility during 2011 and at three others during 2014. The detection results do not include testing at our fifth treatment facility at which testing for radiological contaminants is required once every nine years. Testing for radiological contaminants at that facility was last conducted in 2008 and EPA's regulations require exclusion of data from the detection table that is more than five years old. The Water Quality Table includes the detection results for radiological contaminants from three facilities during 2014 and from one facility during 2011. For each radiological contaminant, compliance with drinking water standards is based upon the average of four quarterly samples.
- (6) Tested in 2015. Testing for the chlorine residual in the distribution system is required monthly. In 2015, at least twenty representative water samples were taken each month throughout the water distribution system and analyzed for the chlorine residual.
- (7) Tested in 2015. Testing for lead and copper is required once every three years when thirty representative samples are taken throughout the distribution system. Not more than 10%, or three samples, may exceed the action level.

Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Manchester Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Secondary Standards measure the aesthetic quality of drinking water. They are not known to pose a health threat at levels encountered in drinking water. The recommended limits for these standards refer to concentrations that might be a nuisance to the customer. The recommended limits of the secondary standards were exceeded for aluminum and iron at one of our treatment facilities, and for aluminum at another, as indicated in the following table:

SECONDARY STANDARDS ⁽¹⁾	RECOMMENDED LIMIT	HIGHEST DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Aluminum (ppb) ⁽¹⁾	200	482	15 – 482	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	300	600	ND – 600	Erosion of natural deposits

⁽¹⁾ Testing for secondary standards including aluminum and iron is required at each treatment facility once during each three-year compliance period. Samples for secondary standards were taken at four of our treatment facilities during

2014. We did not operate one of our facilities during 2014 and thus no sample was taken at that facility. Samples were last taken at that facility in 2011. The table includes the detection results from four of our treatment facilities during 2014 and from our fifth facility during 2011. Also, one sample was taken for iron from the water distribution system during 2014. The concentration of iron in that sample was not detectable (ND).

- (2) The Recommended Upper Limit for iron is based on unpleasant taste of the water and staining of laundry. Iron is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water with iron levels well above the Recommended Upper Limit could develop deposits of iron in a number of organs of the body.
- (3) Unless a sequestering agent is added to the water, the recommended limit for iron is 300 ppb. When a sequestering agent is added, the recommended limit for iron is 600 ppb. We add a sequestering agent at our treatment facility where the concentration of iron exceeds 300 ppb.

Conclusion

In 2015, all test results of the water provided by Manchester Township Water Utility **met all Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards.**