

2008 Annual Water Quality Report



Cape May County

Ocean City System

PWS ID: NJ0508001

Strathmere System

PWS ID: NJ0511001

Cape May Court House System

PWS ID: NJ0506010

A Message About Your Drinking Water

Dear New Jersey American Water Customer:

As a trusted leader in the industry, New Jersey American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing information about the quality of the water we provide with our customers.

One way we do this is by reporting to you annually the results of our tests on the water we deliver to your home. Please review this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which outlines information applicable to your local water system for testing completed through December, 2008. You'll find that we provide water that surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.

Just as important, New Jersey American Water makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities, so that we can deliver quality water directly to your tap 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our customers are our top priority, and we are committed to providing them with the highest quality drinking water and service possible now and in the years to come. In addition to this written report, you can view information about New Jersey American Water and your water system on our website <http://www.amwater.com>. For more information or for any questions about this report relating to your drinking water, please contact New Jersey American Water at 1-800-652-6987.

Sincerely,

John Bigelow
President, New Jersey American Water

About New Jersey American Water

New Jersey American Water is the state's largest water utility, serving over two million people in 176 communities throughout the state.

About American Water

New Jersey American Water is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Water. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

Partnership for Safe Water

New Jersey American Water is a member of the EPA's Partnership for Safe Water Program (an association of water utilities and government) which is committed to voluntarily providing drinking water of a quality far better than required by federal regulations. The Partnership recognized New Jersey American Water for our commitment to provide the best water quality by presenting several prestigious "Director's Awards" for our surface water treatment plants in Delran (Burlington County), Neptune (Monmouth County), Bridgewater and Franklin (Somerset County) and Tinton Falls (Monmouth County).



How to Contact Us

Thank you...for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers protect our water sources. Please call our Customer Call Center toll-free at 1-800-652-6987 if you have questions.

New Jersey American Water
131 Woodcrest Road
P.O. Box 5079
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
www.amwater.com

Water Information Sources

- **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water:** (609) 292-5550 · www.state.nj.us/dep
- **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities:** (973) 648-2350
Two Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102
Division of Customer Relations:
1-800-624-0241 · www.state.nj.us/bpu
- **US Environmental Protection Agency:** www.epa.gov/safewater
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
- **American Water Works Association:** www.awwa.org
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** www.cdc.gov

Where Your Water Comes From

Cape May County - PWSID # 0506010

New Jersey American Water - Cape May County is a public community water system consisting of 3 wells and 1 purchased ground water source from Wildwood Water.

This system's source water comes from Atlantic City "800-foot" sand aquifer, Kirkwood-Cohansey water-table aquifer system.

Strathmere Division - PWSID # 0511001

New Jersey American Water - Strathmere Division is a public community water system consisting of 2 wells and 1 purchased ground water source from Sea Isle City Water.

This system's source water comes from Atlantic City "800-foot" sand aquifer.

Ocean City Division - PWSID # 0508001

New Jersey American Water - Ocean City Division is a public community water system consisting of 11 wells.

This system's source water comes from Atlantic City "800-foot" sand aquifer, Kirkwood-Cohansey water-table aquifer system.

Public Participation

How You Can Get Involved

Customers can participate in decisions that may affect the quality of water by:

- Reading the information provided in bill inserts and special mailings
- Contacting the company directly with questions or to discuss issues
- Responding to company requests for participation in focus groups and roundtables
- Attending open houses conducted by the company
- Responding to survey requests

Share This Report:

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not customers. Additional copies of this report are available by contacting customer service at 1-800-652-6987.

Protecting Your Water Source

What is S.W.A.P.

SWAP (Source Water Assessment Program) is a program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to study existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water sources throughout the state. Sources are rated depending upon their contaminant susceptibility.

Susceptibility Ratings for New Jersey American Water – Cape May County, Strathmere Division, Ocean City Division

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system.

Source	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	
Ocean City Division	Wells - 11			11			11			11			11	10	1			11			11	11			
	GUDI - 0																								
	Surface water intakes - 0																								
Strathmere Division	Wells - 2			2			2			2			2	2				2			2	2			
	GUDI - 0																								
	Surface water intakes - 0																								
Cape May Court House Division	Wells - 4			4			4			4			4	2	2			4			4	4			
	GUDI - 0																								
	Surface water intakes - 0																								

The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report. Source Water Assessment Reports, Definitions, and Summaries are available for public water systems at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/ or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

Contaminant Categories

DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant 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. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

Source water protection is a long-term dedication to clean and safe drinking water. It is more cost effective to prevent contamination than to address contamination after the fact. Every member of the community has an important role in source water protection. NJDEP recommends controlling activities and development around drinking water sources whether it is through land acquisition, conservation easements or hazardous waste collection programs. We will continue to keep you informed of SWAP's progress and developments.

Our Water Research Efforts

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, people with severely weakened immune systems have a risk of developing a life-threatening illness. We encourage such people to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease. It can also be spread through means other than drinking water. Researchers with American Water have developed a new, more accurate test for Cryptosporidium in water. For additional information regarding cryptosporidiosis and how it may impact those with weakened immune systems, please contact our customer service center at 1-800-652-6987 or speak with your personal health care provider.

Water Quality Statement

The data presented in the Table of Detected Contaminants is the same data collected to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey state monitoring and testing requirements. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were detected well below the levels set by the EPA to protect public health.

To assure high quality water, individual water samples are taken each year for chemical, physical and microbiological tests. Tests are done on water taken at the source, from the distribution system after treatment and, for lead and copper monitoring, from the customer's tap. Testing can pinpoint a potential problem so that preventive action may be taken. The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system has received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

Ocean City System - PWS ID# NJ0508001

Towns Served By This System: | Beesleys Point | Marmora | Ocean City |

Table of Detected Contaminants - 2008

Those substances not listed in this table were not found in the treated water supply.

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Units	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected	Typical Source
Inorganic Chemicals							
Fluoride	ppm	Yes	4	4	ND to 0.24	0.24	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	ppm	Yes	1	1	ND to 0.004	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppm	Yes	50	50	ND to 0.002	0.002	Erosion of natural deposits
Treatment Byproducts							
Total Haloacetic Acids [THAA5s]	ppb	Yes	NA	60	1 to 9	9 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]	ppb	Yes	NA	80	6 to 30	26 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	Yes	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.3 to 0.62	0.62	Water additive used to control microbes
Radiological Substances							
Alpha Emitters (2005) ²	pCi/L	Yes	0	15	ND to 4.78	2.86 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226/228)	pCi/L	Yes	0	5	1.5 to 3.0	1.87 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap water samples were collected from 30 homes in the service area							
Contaminant	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Homes Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (2007) ²	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.142	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (2007) ²	ppb	15	0	1	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Secondary Contaminants	Units	Secondary MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected		Typical Source	
Aluminum	ppm	0.2	ND	ND		Naturally occurring	
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.0253 to 0.2	0.2		Naturally occurring	
Manganese	ppm	0.05	ND to 0.008	0.008		Naturally occurring	
Sodium	ppm	50	23 to 31	31		Naturally occurring	

¹ This level represents the highest annual quarterly average calculated from the data collected.

² The State of New Jersey allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year-to-year. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Strathmere System - PWS ID# NJ0511001

Towns Served By This System: | Strathmere |

Table of Detected Contaminants - 2008

Those substances not listed in this table were not found in the treated water supply.

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Units	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected	Typical Source
Inorganic Chemicals							
Fluoride	ppm	Yes	4	4	0.24	0.24	Erosion of natural deposits
Treatment Byproducts							
Total Haloacetic Acids [THAA5s]	ppb	Yes	NA	60	2	10 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]	ppb	Yes	NA	80	10	32 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	Yes	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.02 to 1.1	1.1	Water additive used to control microbes
Radiological Substances							
Alpha Emitters (2005) ²	pCi/L	Yes	0	15	ND to 8.5	2.86 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226/228) (2005) ²	pCi/L	Yes	0	5	0.66 to 1.5	1.28 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap water samples were collected from 10 homes in the service area							
Contaminant	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Homes Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (2006) ²	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.144	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (2006) ²	ppb	15	0	1	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Secondary Contaminants	Units	Secondary MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected		Typical Source	
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.0866	0.0866		Naturally occurring	
Sodium	ppm	50	34	34		Naturally occurring	

¹ This level represents the highest annual quarterly average calculated from the data collected.

² The State of New Jersey allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year-to-year. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Units	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected	Typical Source
Inorganic Chemicals							
Barium	ppm	Yes	2	2	ND to 0.008	0.008	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	Yes	4	4	ND to 0.2	0.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppm	Yes	50	50	ND to 0.007	0.007	Erosion of natural deposits
Treatment Byproducts							
Total Haloacetic Acids [THAA5s]	ppb	Yes	NA	60	0 to 6	5 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]	ppb	Yes	NA	80	8 to 41.8	29 ¹	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	Yes	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.10 to 0.70	0.7	Water additive used to control microbes
Radiological Substances							
Alpha Emitters (2005) ²	pCi/L	Yes	0	15	ND to 3.99	2.19 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226/228) (2005) ²	pCi/L	Yes	0	5	1.5 to 3.48	2.59 ¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap water samples were collected from 20 homes in the service area							
Contaminant	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th%tile)	Homes Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (2006) ²	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.285	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (2006) ²	ppb	15	0	0.004	None	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Secondary Contaminants	Units	Secondary MCL	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected		Typical Source	
Iron	ppm	0.3	ND to 0.43	0.43 ³		Naturally occurring	
Manganese	ppm	0.05	ND	ND		Naturally occurring	
Sodium	ppm	50	12 to 59	59 ⁴		Naturally occurring	

¹ This level represents the highest annual quarterly average calculated from the data collected.
² The State of New Jersey allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year-to-year. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.
³ The recommended upper limit for iron is based on unpleasant taste of the water and staining of the laundry. Iron is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water with iron well above the recommended upper limit could develop deposits of iron in a number of organs of the body.
⁴ For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

How Do I Read the Table of Detected Contaminants?

First, determine which table you should read by finding your town in the Towns Served by this System. Starting with the **Contaminant**, read across from left to right. A “**Yes**” under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. The column marked **MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, is 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. The shaded column marked **MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level**, is 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. The shaded column marked **Range Detected** shows the highest and lowest test results for the year. The column marked **Highest Level Detected** shows the highest test results during the year. **Typical Source** shows where this substance usually originates. Compare the Range Detected values with the MCL column. To be in compliance, the Highest Level Detected must be lower than the MCL standard. Those substances not listed in the table were not found in the treated water supply.

As you can see from the table, our system had no MCL violations again this year. The footnotes and the definitions below will help you interpret the data presented in the Table of Detected Contaminants.

Table Definitions

90th Percentile Value: Of the samples taken, 90% of the values of the results were below the level indicated in the table.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of 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 contamination.

NA: Not applicable

ND (None Detected): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

ppb (Parts per Billion): Corresponds to one part substance in one billion parts of water.

ppm (Parts per Million): Corresponds to one part substance in one million parts of water.

pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

RUL: Recommended upper limit.

What's in the Source Water Before We Treat It?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities.

Substances That May Be Present in Source Water Include:

Microbiological Contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants: such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants: including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants: which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

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

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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. New Jersey American Water 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>.

Vulnerable Populations Statement

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 pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in some groundwater. It may pose a health risk when the gas is released from water into air, as occurs while showering, washing dishes and performing other household activities. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks in the foundation. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering through tap water is, in most cases, a small source of radon in indoor air. Inhalation of radon gas has been linked to lung cancer, however the effects of radon ingested in drinking water are not yet clear. If you are concerned about radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level.

During testing in 2008, our water showed no radon levels in the Cape May system, in the Strathmere system and in the Ocean City system. The EPA is developing regulations to reduce radon in drinking water. Radon in the air is inexpensive to test and easy to correct. For additional information, call the EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

本报告与您的饮用水有关。
如果您不了解其内容，应请别人为您翻译解说。

이 보고서에는 귀하께서 사용하고 계시는 식수에 관한 정보가 들어있습니다.
만약에 이해를 못하시면 누군가에게 번역을 의뢰하십시오.

এই প্রতিবেদনটি আপনার পানীয় পানির বিষয়ে
গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য প্রদান করে।
এই তথ্যের বিষয়ে আপনি যদি বুঝতে পারেন না
তবে অন্য কারো কাছ থেকে অনুবাদ করুন।



NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER