

2008 Annual Water Quality Report



**Hunterdon
and Warren
Counties**

**Washington
System**

PWS ID: NJ2121001

**Belvidere
System**

PWS ID: NJ2103001

**Frenchtown
System**

PWS ID: NJ1011001

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 (800) 652-6987.

Sincerely

John Bigelow
President, New Jersey American Water

About New Jersey American Water

New Jersey American Water is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 2.6 million people.

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.

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 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 preventative 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.

Washington System - PWSID# NJ2121001

Table of Detected Contaminants - 2008

Towns Served By This System: | Franklin Township | Oxford Township | Warren | Washington Township | Washington Borough | White Township |

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

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Highest Detected Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Disinfectant Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	80	N/A	ND - 8.5	4.3 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	N/A	ND - 1.8	0.9 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.20 - 0.82	0.6 ²	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants ³							
1,1 Dichloroethylene	ppb	2	0	ND - 0.7	0.1 ²	YES	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
MTBE	ppb	70	0	ND - 1.8	0.4 ²	YES	Octane enhancer in unleaded gasoline
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	ND - 0.1	0.1	YES	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.006 - 0.040	0.04	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	ppb	100	100	1.3 - 1.8	1.8	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate ⁴	ppm	10	10	1.37 - 5.77	5.77	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tap Water Samples Were Collected for Lead and Copper Analysis from Homes in the Service Area							
Lead and Copper	Unit	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Compliance Achieved	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Typical Source
Lead	ppb	15	0	3	YES	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.205	YES	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
¹ This level represents the highest running annual average calculated from the data collected. ² This level represents an annual average of all samples. ³ As required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey American Water samples our well water every two weeks for Volatile Organic Contaminants. These samples are not for compliance and are used to demonstrate that treatment devices are working properly. During 2008, a sample taken on June 18th contained tetrachloroethylene at a level of 4.0 ppb. All other samples taken in 2008 contained undetectable amounts of tetrachloroethylene. Some people who drink water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their liver, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. ⁴ 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.							

Lead Education Statement

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>.

Frenchtown System - PWSID# NJ1011001

Table of Detected Contaminants - 2008

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

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Highest Detected Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Disinfectant Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	80	N/A	ND - 19.7	10 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	N/A	ND - 4.1	2 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.38 - 0.71	0.5 ¹	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic	ppb	5	0	ND - 5	1 ¹	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.016 - 0.053	0.053	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	ppb	100	100	1.6 - 2.1	2.1	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.77 - 2.26	2.26	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppb	50	50	4 - 7	7	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap Water Samples Were Collected for Lead and Copper Analysis from Homes in the Service Area							
Lead and Copper	Unit	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Compliance Achieved	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Typical Source
Lead ²	ppb	15	0	4	YES	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper ²	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.160	YES	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
¹ This value represents an annual average of all samples. ² The state of New Jersey allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old							

Belvidere System - PWS ID# NJ2103001

Table of Detected Contaminants - 2008

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

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Highest Detected Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Disinfectant Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	80	N/A	8.2 - 49.8	29 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	N/A	ND - 1.2	1 ¹	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants							
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.20 - 0.72	0.5 ¹	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	ppm	2	2	N/A	0.024	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	ppb	100	100	N/A	2.4	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	3.80 - 3.91	3.91	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tap Water Samples Were Collected for Lead and Copper Analysis from Homes in the Service Area							
Lead and Copper	Unit	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Compliance Achieved	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Typical Source
Lead ²	ppb	15	0	2	YES	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper ²	ppm	1.3	1.3	1.08	YES	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
¹ This value represents an annual average of all samples. ² The State of New Jersey allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year-to-year. Some of the data, though representative, is more than one year old							

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 column marked Range Detected shows the highest and lowest test results for the year. The column marked Highest Detected Level 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 Detected Level 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.

N/A: 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.

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'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.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

During 2008, New Jersey American Water participated in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule in our Frenchtown System. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. For testing conducted in the Frenchtown system, New Jersey American Water did not detect the presence of any unregulated contaminant. Results are available upon request.

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, our water showed radon levels ranging from ND to 660 pCi/L in the Washington system, from ND to 208 pCi/L in the Frenchtown system, and at the level of 475 pCi/L in the Belvidere 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.

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.

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

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.

આ અહેવાલ મને તમારી પાસેના પાણી વિશે
અગત્યની જાણવાની માહિતી આપવા માટે આપ્યું છે.
આનો અર્થ સમજાવવા માટે કોઈ સહાયકની પસંદ
કરી તેની સહાયતા લો