



*Water testing performed in 2009*



*Presented By:*  
**MOORESTOWN TOWNSHIP**

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PWS ID#: NJ0322001

## Maintaining High Standards

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009. The purpose of this report is to enhance your understanding of drinking water and raise awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how our water quality results compare to federal and state standards.

We are pleased to tell you that we had no Safe Drinking Water Act violations again in 2009. We are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions, we are always available to assist you.

## Contacts

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: (609) 292-5550,  
[www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities: (973) 648-2350,  
Two Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Division of Customer Relations: (800) 624-0241, [www.state.nj.us/bpu](http://www.state.nj.us/bpu)

US Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

American Water Works Association: [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Your drinking water comes from a blend of sources that may include groundwater from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer and surface water from the Delaware River. Moorestown Township purchases surface water from New Jersey American Water.

“WHEN THE WELL'S DRY, WE KNOW  
THE WORTH OF WATER.” — Benjamin Franklin

## Source Water Assessment

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.

DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of the 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 a low rating was assigned.

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/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

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, NJDEP may customize (i.e., change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

## Community Participation

If you have questions or would like to become involved in discussions about your water quality, the Moorestown Township Council meets twice monthly, on the second and fourth Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the William Allen Middle School Auditorium, 801 North Stanwick Road, Moorestown.

## Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## Questions?

We want you to be informed about your drinking water. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Moorestown Township Department of Public Works at (856) 235-3520.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and in the air, soil, and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested many water samples for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

## Lead and Drinking Water

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Sampling Results

The data presented in the Tables of Detected Contaminants is the same data collected to comply with U.S. EPA 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 U.S. EPA to protect public health. To assure high-quality water, individual water samples are taken each year for chemical, physical, and microbiological tests. Testing is conducted on water collected at the source, during treatment, from the distribution system after treatment, and, for lead and copper monitoring, from customers' taps. Testing can pinpoint a potential problem so that preventative action may be taken.

The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Moorestown Township		Delaware River Regional WTP		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2008	15	0	14.3	10.2–14.3	11 <sup>2</sup>	ND–11.2 <sup>2</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2008	2	2	0.0754	0.0319–0.0754	0.016 <sup>2</sup>	0.016–0.016 <sup>2</sup>	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (ppb)	2009	10	10	NA	NA	6	ND–6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2009	[4]	[4]	0.45	0.20–0.45	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2008	5	0	3.16	1.43–3.16	4 <sup>2</sup>	ND–4.6 <sup>2</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	2008	100	NA	0.0100	ND–0.0100	1.4 <sup>2</sup>	1.4–1.4 <sup>2</sup>	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	4.31	ND–4.31	1.19 <sup>2</sup>	1.19–1.19 <sup>2</sup>	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (# positive samples)	2009	1 positive monthly sample	0	1	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (% removal)	2009	TT	NA	NA	NA	28	28–70	No	Naturally present in the environment
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2008	1	0	0.250	ND–0.250	NA	NA	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Turbidity (NTU)	2009	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.15 <sup>3</sup>	0.05–0.15 <sup>3</sup>	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2009	TT	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppb)	2008	30	0	0.28	0.18–0.28	9 <sup>2</sup>	ND–14 <sup>2</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Copper</b> (ppm)	2008	1.3	1.3	0.0627	0/41	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead</b> (ppb)	2008	15	0	4.9	2/41	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**INITIAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EVALUATION <sup>4</sup>**

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAA]- IDSE Results</b> (ppb)	2009	17.10	ND–17.10	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–IDSE Results</b> (ppb)	2009	40.90	4.10–40.90	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup> Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals/pesticides because several years of testing have indicated that these substances do not occur in our source water. The SDWA regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Sampled in 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU (and that no sample may exceed 1 NTU).

<sup>4</sup> We were required by the U.S. EPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system that have elevated disinfection by-product concentrations. Disinfection by-products (e.g., HAAs and TTHMs) result from continuous disinfection of drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter that naturally occurs in the source water.

## Definitions

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.