

Moorestown Township Water Quality Fact Sheet & Time Line

As has been reported through various media outlets, Moorestown Township has discovered elevated levels of 1, 2, 3 Trichloropropane (TCP) in wells 7 & 9, which provide water to the North Church Street Water Treatment Plant. As a result of a recommendation by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on October 6, 2014, those wells were shut down that day. While this issue has caused concern throughout our community, the fact is that our water meets all State and Federal drinking water standards. This is true now, and it was true before the wells were shut down.

TCP is an unregulated man-made compound. There are no Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) established by the DEP or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There is one state that has established a MCL for TCP. That state is Hawaii, and their MCL is established at 0.6 micrograms per liter. That MCL is between 15 and 20 times higher than any reading of TCP that we have found in our water.

Moorestown came to test for TCP (and other unregulated compounds) while participating in the EPA's Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3) program. That program requires all drinking water sources who service more than 10,000 people to monitor for the unregulated compounds between January, 2013 and December, 2015. While there are many drinking water sources that have yet to begin monitoring, Moorestown engaged in the process in the first quarter of the first year, with testing beginning in March, 2013.

As soon as the laboratory that evaluated our water completed their analysis, those results were sent to the EPA, the DEP, and us. We reported our findings in our 2013 Water Quality Report, which was sent to every home in Moorestown. While there has been dialogue between our Utility Superintendent, Bill Butler, our Utility Engineers from Remington & Vernick and the DEP regarding standard methods of testing (since the Spring of this year) and treatment to eliminate TCP (since the Summer of this year), the DEP did not recommend the closing of wells 7 & 9 until October 6, 2014. We were told by the DEP that their recommendation was made because we have other sources of water with no levels of TCP detected that could handle of current water needs.

Our staff and professionals are currently evaluating different treatment options that will eliminate TCP and any other contaminants from wells 7 & 9. The best option should be identified in the very near future. Once that has occurred, we will immediately begin the process of implementing that treatment.

Any questions or concerns regarding this issue can be addressed to Bill Butler, Utilities Superintendent. Bill can be reached at 856-235-3520.

Timeline

- May, 2012. Moorestown receives letter from the EPA regarding the UCMR 3 program.
- March, 2013. Moorestown begins testing our water per the UCMR 3 guidelines.
- Summer/Fall, 2013. Results from our testing is sent to the EPA, DEP, and us.
- May, 2014. Moorestown initiates contact with the DEP to inquire about which method we should use for additional quarterly sampling. During this communication, DEP recommends that Moorestown investigate potential funding to treat for TCP from the DEP Spill Compensation Fund.

Moorestown immediately begins the application process, but our application is denied since more than a year has passed since samples were collected.

- June, 2014. Moorestown receives a letter rejecting our Spill Fund application. DEP recommends that we work with their Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) to explore other funding sources. Moorestown begins to work with the ICU. We continue to work with the ICU.
- Summer, 2014. Moorestown's Utility Engineer begins developing treatment options.
- October 3, 2014. The DEP invites Moorestown to participate in a conference call regarding our TCP levels.
- October 6, 2014. Conference call takes place. DEP recommends shutting down wells 7 & 9. Those wells are shut down the very same day.
- October 24, 2014. DEP sends a letter to Moorestown confirming that our water meets all drinking water standards.

Attachments

1. [EPA letter informing Moorestown about the UCMR 3 program.](#)
2. [EPA fact sheet for TCP.](#)
3. [Informational sheet about the UCMR 3 published by the EPA.](#)
4. [October 24, 2014 letter from the DEP confirming that Moorestown's water meets all drinking water standards.](#)