

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

North Caldwell Hilltop System

For the Year 2021, Results from the Year 2020

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

This water is supplied by the Township of Verona via a two million gallon water storage tank located on the Hilltop property, which is solely comprised of water purchased from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJWSC). The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for these public water systems, which are available at WWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding these Source Water Assessments.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. As you can see by the tables, we had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State safety requirements. The tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

North Caldwell Hilltop Water System 2020 Test Results PWS ID #NJ0715002						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measure- ment	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Copper Result at 90 th Percentile	N	0.12 No samples exceeded the action level	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Result at 90 th Percentile	N	ND No samples exceeded the action level	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts:						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	Range = 42 -76 Highest LRAA = 60	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	Range = 8 - 23 Highest LRAA = 16	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Regulated Disinfectants		Level Detected		MRDL		MRDLG
Chlorine: water additive used to control microbes.		Range = 0.2 – 0.4 ppm Average = 0.3 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

Essex Fells Hilltop Water System 2020 Test Results PWS ID #NJ0706002						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measure- ment	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts:						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	N	Range = 43 - 64 Highest LRAA = 76	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	Range = 31 - 36 Highest LRAA = 43	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Regulated Disinfectants		Level Detected		MRDL		MRDLG
Chlorine: water Additive used to control microbes.		Range = 0.4 – 0.8 ppm Average = 0.7 ppm		4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm

TTHM compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA), calculated at each monitoring location. The LRAA calculation is based on four completed quarters of monitoring results.

Special Note:

The North Caldwell Hilltop System uses surface water and is required to continuously monitor the residual disinfectant level. The NJDEP notified us that we failed to submit our February 2020 chlorine results on time and that resulted in a Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) violation. The results were posted in March 2020 and we were returned to compliance. These samples were taken and submitted correctly. We believe NJDEP inadvertently posted the results late.

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. The North Caldwell Hilltop System, the Passaic Valley Water Commission and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission are 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 second to 2 minutes before using water for drinking and 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>. However, for those served by a lead service line, flushing times may vary based on the length of the service line and plumbing configuration in your home. If your home is set back further from the street a longer flushing time may be needed. *To conserve water, other household water usage activities such as showering, washing clothes, and running the dishwasher are effective methods of flushing out water from a service line.* To determine if you

have a lead service line, contact us at 973-228-6414.

Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) is a major supplier of drinking water in Northern New Jersey. PVWC's main facility is the Little Falls Water Treatment Plant located in Totowa, NJ. Water diverted from the Passaic and Pompton Rivers is treated, filtered and disinfected at the plant. Treated water is then mixed with treated water from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque Reservoir treatment plant.

North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) 2020 Test Results PWS ID #NJ1613001						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity	N	Highest Measurement 0.9 Range = 0.01 – 0.9 99.1 % < 0.3	NTU	0	TT 0.3 NTU % Of the NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (%)	N	Removal Ratio 0.8 – 1.1	%	NA	TT = % removal	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Barium	N	0.008	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.15	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Passaic Valley Water Commission 2020 Test Results PWS ID# NJ1605002						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants:						
Turbidity	N	Highest Measurement = 0.27 Range = 0.02 – 0.27 100 % samples < 0.3	NTU	0	TT = % of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (%)	N	Range = 55 - 82 100 % (25 – 50 % required)		NA	TT = % removal	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Barium	N	Range = 0.02 – 0.03 Highest detect = 0.03	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	Range = ND – 0.05 Highest detect = 0.05	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Range = 0.59 – 2.14 Highest detect = 2.14	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	Range = 1.96 – 3.40 Highest detect =	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts:						
Bromate	N	Range = ND – 6.98 Highest detect = 6.98	ppb	N/A	10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Secondary Contaminant		Level Detected	Units of Measurement			RUL
Sodium Test results Yr. 2020		Range = 46 - 95	ppm			50

The Passaic Valley Water Commission exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit for sodium. 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 (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are viable or capable of causing disease. 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, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through

means other than drinking water. Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) conducted special source water *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* monitoring in 2020.

SOURCE WATER PATHOGEN MONITORING

Contaminant	PVWC Plant Intake	Typical Source
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , Oocysts/L	Range = 0.0 – 0.09	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
<i>Giardia</i> , Cysts/L	Range = 0.0 – 0.83	

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA requires monitoring but has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

ADDITIONAL PVWC TREATMENT PLANT MONITORING RESULTS

Detected Contaminants	Little Falls WTP Effluent Range of Results	
Chlorate (ppb)	(121 - 345)	<p>Test results presented in this table were collected as part of a study to determine the general occurrence of these contaminants. PVWC continues to participate in and support these types of regulatory and research efforts to maintain a position of leadership in drinking water supply.</p> <p>There are currently no EPA drinking water standards in effect for these contaminants although EPA has established health advisory levels for some of these to provide an estimate of acceptable drinking water levels based on health effects information.</p> <p>EPA has published Health Advisory levels for Perfluorooctanoic acid, (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, (PFOS), of 0.070 parts per billion (ppb) combined.</p> <p>Health advisory levels are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to state agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination.</p>
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	(ND – 0.24)	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	(ND – 3.1)	
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHp/A) (ppt)	(ND – 3.1)	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	(ND – 2.1)	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	(3.1 – 8.6)	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	(2.9 – 3.4)	
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	(4.8 – 7.6)	

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 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 byproducts 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 be 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.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002), and NJDWS system (PWS ID 1613001) can be obtained by accessing NJDEP's source water assessment web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is – or will be – consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

Intake Susceptibility Ratings	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
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PVWC 4 Surface Water	4-High	4-High	1-Medium 3-Low	4-Medium	4-High	4-Low	4-Low	4-High
NJDWSC 5 Surface Water	5-High	5-High	2-Medium 3-Low	5-Medium	5-High	5-Low	5-Low	5-High

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

DEFINITIONS:

In the "Test Results" tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Organic Compounds - Chemicals associated with carbon or living matter.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -The "Goal"(MCLG) 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.

Secondary Contaminant- Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

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.

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 contamination

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) - We are required to remove a certain percentage of (TOC) from our drinking water on a monthly basis. Total Organic Carbon has no adverse health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts.

Turbidity - A measure of the particulate matter or "cloudiness" of the water. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

For additional information: If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please call Michael Grasso at 973-228-6414. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at Borough Hall on Gould Avenue. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.