

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2012



PWS #1904003
QUALITY ON TAP REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2012
RESULTS FROM THE YEAR 2011

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 of water services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

WATER SYSTEM DESCRIPTION - PWS #1904003

Our water source is Wells #1 & Wells #2. Our wells draw groundwater from the Hardyston Quartzite Aquifer. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at **www.state.nj.us/dep/swap** or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 1-609-292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding your water system's Source Water Assessment. This water system's source water susceptibility ratings and a list of potential contaminant sources is attached.

The Forest Lakes Water Company routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to state and federal laws.

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011

Contaminant:	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Measurement	MCLG	MCL
Radioactive Contaminants Taken:					
Alpha Emitters (2006)	N	0.9	pc / l	0	15
Combined Radium (2006)	N	0.5	pc / l	0	5
Inorganic Contaminants:					
Barium - (4/14/09)	N	0.179	ppm	2	2
Copper - (9/11/09)	N	90% - 0.137	ppm	13	AL=13
Lead - (9/11/09)	N	90% - 0.0052	ppm	0	0.015
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] - (4/12/11)	N	0.6	ppm	10	10
Volatile Organic Contaminants:					
THM [Total Trihalomethanes] - (8/02/11)	N	8.05	ppb	N/A	80
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids - (8/02/11)	N	4.0132	ppb	N/A	60
Coliform -	Y	2 POS (Oct 2011)	All other samples negative		

The **EPA** requires monitoring for over 80 drinking water contaminants. The contaminants listed in the table are the only contaminants detected in your water.

In the following list, you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) –

Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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 two thousand years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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 at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for 70 years to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. 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 Maximum Contaminant Level – (SMCL)

Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Likely Sources of Contamination:

Contaminant:

Alpha Emitters: Erosion of natural deposits.

Barium: Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, and erosion of natural deposits.

Copper: Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

Lead: Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate: Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

TTHM: By-product of drinking water disinfection

HAA5: By-product of drinking water disinfection

Chlorine: Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

Total Coliform: Naturally present in the environment.

"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. Forest Lakes Water Company 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 for drinking either 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 via the Internet at:

www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.html

Some people may be **more vulnerable to contaminants** in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer who are 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 reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). If you have Internet Access, you can access the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>

**We are
proud to
announce
that your
drinking
water
meets or
exceeds all
State and
Federal
safety
require-
ments.**

What does this mean?

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the office. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please contact our office.

The Forest Lakes Water Company routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to State and Federal laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011.

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 our data, though representative, are more than a year old.

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 materials 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 and farming.

Pesticides/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. FDA 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 and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4971.

Special consideration regarding children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and others.

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in water than do adults, based on body weight, because children may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. Therefore, reproductive or developmental effects are used to calculate drinking water standards if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent to account for additional uncertainties regarding such effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

The Forest Lakes Water Company Water works hard to provide top quality water for every customer. In turn, we ask you, our customers, to protect our water resources.

Please call our office if you have questions at 973-786-6600.

Susceptibility Ratings for Forest Lakes Water Company Sources:

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

The seven contaminant categories are defined on this page. 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.

	PATHOGENS	PATHOGENS	PATHOGENS	NUTRIENTS	NUTRIENTS	NUTRIENTS	PESTICIDE	PESTICIDE	PESTICIDE	VOC	VOC	VOC	INORGANICS	INORGANICS	INORGANICS	RADIONUCLIDE	RADIONUCLIDE	RADIONUCLIDE	RADON	RADON	RADON	DBP	DBP	DBP
Sources:																								
Wells - 3	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
GUDI - 0		2	1 3	1	2				3			3		2	1		2	1		3				2
Surface Water - 1																								

If a system rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflect 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.

Contaminants

Contaminant:

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

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

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC):

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-base 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.html> or call (800)648-0394.

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

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 received monitoring waivers for all these types of contaminants.