

**ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
WALL TOWNSHIP WATER DEPARTMENT
2003**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of New Jersey drinking water health standards. The Wall Township Water Department vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to the EPA and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Your water comes from eight (8) wells located within the Township in addition to water purchased from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. The Township's wells are between 460 and 730 feet deep and draw their water from the Mount Laurel and Englishtown aquifers. The water from the N. J. Water Supply Authority is drawn from the Manasquan Reservoir in Howell Township and treated at the N. J. Water Supply Authority facility on Hospital Road in Wall Township. To date, the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has not completed an assessment for our sources of drinking water. Source water assessments will be completed for all sources of public water by May, 2003.

If you have any questions about this report or about your water utility, please contact Ken Critchlow, the Superintendent of the Wall Township Department of Public Works at (732) 449-2700 or Lawrence E. Duff, System Superintendent at the Manasquan Water Supply System at (732) 974-8383. We want you to be informed about your water supply and distribution system. If you want more information or have comments about the water utility, you may attend any of the regular Township Committee meetings held at our Municipal Complex located at 2700 Allaire Road on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.

The Wall Township Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The attached table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2002. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

In addition to regulating primary contaminants, which are health related contaminants, the EPA and NJDEP regulate certain secondary contaminants. These regulations apply to any contaminant in drinking water which may adversely affect the taste, odor or appearance of the water, or which may otherwise adversely affect the public welfare. Therefore, the recommended upper limit for the secondary contaminants are based on aesthetic impacts rather than health related criteria.

We work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

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 come from stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants allowed 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.

A significant portion of water consumed by Wall Township residents is purchased from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), a copy of the 2003 Consumer Confidence Report for the NJWSA system is available for review on the NJWSA web site, WWW.NJWSA.ORG, or on the Wall Township web site, WWW.WALLNJ.COM.

Definitions and Abbreviations

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or milligram 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 million.

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

Action level (AL)-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 (MCL) - The “maximum allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the maximum contaminant level goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The “goal” (MCLG) is the level of contaminants in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Non-Detects (ND) – Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Not Applicable (N/A) – No range to be reported for these contaminants as directed by USEPA.

Notes:

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 of these types of contaminants.

MCL’s 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 seventy years to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

As part of our water quality monitoring program, hundreds of quality tests are performed on our water each year. We test for over eighty individual contaminants, and perform additional daily monitoring at our water treatment facilities, and throughout the water distribution system. The following table lists only contaminants, which were detected in the water. All detections are at safe levels.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND OTHERS

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard 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 these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effect on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

NITRATE: 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: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).