

# Township of Bloomfield

## 2015



# WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWS ID 0702001

June 2016

Dear Customer,

The Township of Bloomfield is committed to providing our customers and the community with high quality drinking water through prompt service, courteous and helpful communication, and excellence in the treatment and distribution of our most valued resource...water.

The purpose of this report is to provide you, our customer, with information on the sources of your drinking water. This report will also describe the water treatment process, and explain what potential substances may be found in drinking water. Health information and a listing of the amounts of detected substances and how they compare to the state and federal regulations are also provided.

This report confirms that your drinking water is safe. However as you may know, the Township has experienced issues of non-compliance related to higher than normal levels of trihalomethanes (TTHM's) which required public notification to our customers. We have been implementing new procedures and improvements to the water system including enhanced hydrant flushing and elimination of dead-ends within the distribution system. This has resulted in lower levels of TTHM's in 2016. However, prior to these improvements, we had an abnormally higher than normal TTHM level at one of our locations in the third quarter of 2015. Since the TTHM level is based upon an average of four levels taken quarterly throughout the year, our average calculated TTHM level remains above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) even though the current levels are below this value. This report therefore includes an advisory related to this issue. It is anticipated that this will be the last notice you will receive on this MCL violation since currently, all TTHM levels are registering below the MCL.

The Bloomfield Water Department is committed to providing safe and compliant drinking water to our customers and will continue to make improvements and adjustments to our policies and procedures to accomplish this. I recommend you periodically check our website under the "Bloomfield Water" tab for information and updates related to our drinking water.

We hope you will find this report informative and that it provides you with a better understanding of all that's involved in bringing high quality drinking water into your home. If you would like additional information or if you have any questions concerning this report, feel free to call me at 973-680-4009. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

Very truly yours,

Paul D. Lasek, P.E.  
Township Engineer  
Township Water Operator  
N.J. W-3 Lic. No. 59864



**Township of  
Bloomfield**

**Mayor**

**Michael J. Venezia**

**Council Members**

**Wartyna L. Davis**

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**Carlos M. Pomares**

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**Nicholas Joanow**

**Carlos Bernard**

### **Sources of Drinking Water:**

Both tap water and bottled water may come from groundwater (springs, wells) or surface water (rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, reservoirs). As the 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.

The Township of Bloomfield purchases bulk drinking water from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, Wanaque North and South Reservoirs. However, at this time, we cannot physically obtain this water from these reservoirs. We therefore trade or "wheel" this water from the City of Newark Pequannock Watershed system. Therefore, all of our drinking water originates from the Pequannock watershed. The City of Newark's water supply is entirely from surface water sources in the Pequannock and Wanaque watersheds which cover approximately 150 square miles of forest lands in Morris, Sussex and Passaic Counties. The Pequannock watershed supplies five reservoirs (Charlottesburg, Echo Lake, Canistear, Clinton and Oak Ridge Reservoirs) which have a combined capacity of 14.4 billion gallons. The Wanaque watershed supplies the following two reservoirs: the 29.6 billion gallon Wanaque Reservoir and the 7 billion gallon Monksville Reservoir. The Wanaque Reservoir is operated by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) which has pump stations designed to pump 250 million gallons per day from the Pompton River and 150 million gallons per day from the Ramapo River into the reservoir when needed.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for all public water systems. Further information on the Source Water Assessment Program can be obtained by logging onto NJDEP's source water web site at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

### **Ongoing Water System Improvements:**

The Township of Bloomfield is committed to providing water that meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements for drinking water. In general, our water system is in good condition. However, as with many water systems within the region, the advanced age of pipes and valves represent a challenge in

delivering safe and reliable drinking water to our customers.

In order to ensure that the Township's water system continues to operate efficiently to provide safe, adequate, and reliable service, we are continuing to improve our system.

Improvements to the Township's water system include cleaning and cement mortar lining of older water mains and the installation of new valves and hydrants to improve water quality, hydraulic capacity and operation of the distribution system.

### **Other Improvements Include:**

**• Installation of Pressure Reducing Valves:** Pressure reducing valves were installed at all three interconnections with the City of Newark. These valves maintain a steady, reduced, static pressure within the system. This reduction in pressure reduces the chances of watermain breaks and leaks within the system thereby reducing consumption and the chances of water service interruptions. The reduced pressures also help to minimize strain on your plumbing system and on items such as hot water heaters thereby increasing their years of usefulness.

### **• Enhanced Hydrant Flushing Procedures:**

The Township has approximately 1,200 fire hydrants within its distribution system. In cooperation with the Bloomfield Fire Department, the Engineering Department created a hydrant flushing program wherein every hydrant is flushed once per year with dead-end hydrants being flushed twice per year. The purpose of hydrant flushing is to increase circulation and make sure that the water within the mains is continually circulated and replaced with fresh water from the interconnections. Such enhanced flushing reduces the chances of contamination within the system and the build-up of chlorine by-products such as trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.

### **• Dead-End Elimination Program:**

Dead-ends within a water system are, by nature, problematic. Water tends to stagnate or circulate very slowly at dead-ends thereby increasing the age of the water which can lead to the build-up of chlorine by-products. In 2015, the Engineering Department completed phase 1 of a capital construction program to eliminate a number of dead-ends that have been historically problematic for the Township related to chlorine by-products as well as cloudy or brown water. Phase II is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. This will lead to better quality water within the system.

### **• New North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) Interconnection:**

For many years the township has been a member of the NJDWSC. We therefore purchase our water supply, in bulk from the NJDWSC. Although a member, we have not been able to acquire this water directly from the Wanaque watershed due to a lack of a physical connection to the system. We therefore have been acquiring our water using the Newark water system and paying a "wheeling" fee for this service. The township is currently in the process of designing and constructing a pump station that will allow us to acquire water directly from NJDWSC through their supply line at the northerly end of town. This will ultimately lead to reduced wheeling rates, more resiliency and better circulation in our system to enhance water quality.

The engineering department will also work toward improving the distribution of information about our system to our customers by enhancing our profile on the township website.

Concerning decisions that may affect the quality of water in the Township of Bloomfield, an opportunity for public participation is provided during regularly scheduled council meetings. Also, the City of Newark suggests that you contact them directly at 973-256-4965 for information concerning the next opportunity for public participation about drinking water provided by the City of Newark or find out more about the City of Newark on the Internet at [www.ci.newark.nj.us](http://www.ci.newark.nj.us).

### **Compliance with Drinking Water Standards:**

In order to ensure the safety of drinking water, the EPA and the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems and require water suppliers to monitor and treat for potentially harmful contaminants. Bottled water is similarly regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and must provide the same protection for public health as tap water. Our water, which is treated according to the EPA's and NJDEP's regulations, meets and most often surpasses the quality standards set by those agencies.

### **Potential Contaminants:**

The types of contaminants that may be found in the raw water before it is treated to produce drinking 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 waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides** are chemicals used to destroy insects and rodents. Herbicides are chemicals used to kill weeds. Both contaminants may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water and residential uses.

**Radioactive Contaminants** which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants** including synthetic (SOC) and volatile organic chemicals (VOC), which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain naturally occurring minerals and traces of 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 (EPA) Hotline 1-800-426-4791**, or Online at [www.water.epa.gov](http://www.water.epa.gov)

#### **Terms and Abbreviations:**

**N/A** - Not Applicable

**ND** - Not Detected

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

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

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level (highest level allowed).

**MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (level below which there is no known or expected risk to health).

**pCi/l** - picocuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)

**ppm** = parts per million; (comparable to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.00).

**ppb** = parts per billion; (comparable to one minute in two thousand years or one penny in \$10,000,000.00).

#### **Water Quality Data:**

The table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed on samples of water taken from January 1 through December 31, 2015. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at intervals greater than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

#### **Health/Educational Information:**

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 provider. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) 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**.

#### **Special Considerations Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers and Others:**

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of contamination 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, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

#### **Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels about 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**

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 Township of Bloomfield 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 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### **Arsenic**

While your drinking water meets the USEPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Effective January 23, 2006, the MCL for arsenic is 5ppb. The results for arsenic in the drinking water was <0.2ppb in 2015.

#### **Water System:**

The Township of Bloomfield purchases bulk water from the NJDWSC which is supplied by the Wanaque watershed. Since we do not have a physical connection with NJDWSC, the Township has a "wheeling" agreement with the City of Newark. Each of Newark's watersheds has a water treatment plant which purifies and filters the water to produce safe and potable water. For the Pequannock system, the City of Newark Water Treatment Plant is located in West Milford; and for the Wanaque system, the NJDWSC Water Treatment Plant is located in

(continued on page 5.)

# WATER QUALITY DATA

## Concentrations of Detected Contaminants Report

### Township of Bloomfield 2015

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Results		Source of Contaminant	
				Pequannock System			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>							
Arsenic	ppb	5	10	<0.2		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes	
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.00606		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Mecury	ppb	2	2	<0.0002		Erosion of natural deposits; discharge refineries and factories	
Copper	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.07		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride	ppm	2	2	0.066		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	
Lead	ppm	0	AL=0.015	0.010		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	<0.5		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Microbiological Substance:</b>							
Total Coliforms Bacteria	Presence of positive sample	0	Presence of Coliforms in >5% of monthly samples	4 Samples in July 6.35%		Naturally present in the environment	
<b>Turbidity:</b>							
Turbidity	ntu	N.A.	<5% of samples exceed 0.3 NTU	TT (<0.3 NTU 95% of the time: upper range 1 NTU)		Soil runoff	
Secondary Contaminants	Units		Secondary Maximum Contaminants Level (SMCL)	Results		Source of Contaminant	
				Pequannock System			
Alkalinity	ppm		NS	30.3		A characteristic of water caused primarily by carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide ions	
Aluminum	ppm		0.2	0.035		By-product of water treatment using aluminum salts	
Chloride	ppm		250	41.6		Erosion of natural deposits	
Chlorine Residual	ppm		4	0.695		Chlorine remaining in treated water and available to destroy disease causing organisms	
Color	CU		10	3		Presence of magnanese and iron, plankton, humus, peat and magnesium	
Hardness	ppm		50-250	57		A characteristic of water caused primarily by salts of calcium and magnesium	
Iron	ppm		<0.3	<0.05		Erosion of natural deposits	
Manganese	ppm		<0.05	0.005		Erosion of natural deposits	
Secondary Contaminants	Units		Secondary Maximum Contaminants Level (SMCL)	Results		Source of Contaminant	
				Pequannock System			
pH	units		6.5-8.5	8.08		Presence of carbonates, bicarbonates and carbon dioxide	
Sodium	ppm		50	22.1		Runoff from road salt and from some water softening processes	
Sulfate	ppm		250	11.2		Drainage of mining wastes, erosion of natural deposits	
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm		500	127		Erosion of natural deposits	
Zinc	ppm	SMCL	5	<0.2		Erosion of minerals from rocks	
Stage 2 Trihalomethines MCL: 80 (ppb)				Stage 2 Haloacetic Acids MCL: 60 (ppb)			
Site No.	Min	Max	LRAA*	Site No.	Min	Max	LRAA*
Site 1	62	117	89	Site 1	23	73	45
Site 2	58	87.5	76	Site 2	39	64	54
Site 3	52	92	81	Site 3	42.3	65.9	54
Site 4	57.5	84	71	Site 4	43.4	75.9	59

\* LRAA - Locational running annual average

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to eliminate or cover these reservoirs, treat the discharge from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state approved schedule to eliminate or cover the reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. Newark has executed an Administrative Consent Order with the Department of Environmental Protection wherein Newark is required to develop a plan and implementation schedule to eliminate, cover or provide treatment for their uncovered reservoirs.

(continued from page 3)

Wanaque. At these plants, the water is routinely monitored and tested to ensure the safety of the water. From the plants, the water is conveyed through large diameter transmission mains to the Township of Bloomfield's distribution system. The Township maintains three metered interconnections with the City of Newark and emergency interconnections with East Orange, PVWC, Montclair and Nutley. The Township of Bloomfield's water distribution system provides potable water and fire protection throughout the municipality. Throughout the distribution system the water is continually monitored to maintain high quality drinking water in the system.

### Questions and Answers

#### Is my water hard or soft?

Hardness describes the level of dissolved natural minerals (calcium and magnesium) in drinking water. These minerals are an important part of a healthy diet. Hard water contains more mineral nutrients and less sodium. A gradual build-up of calcium and magnesium in hard water can form harmless, filmy white deposits on faucets, bathtubs, and tea kettles. Hard water also requires more soap to lather fully. The degree of hard water varies depending on where you live. Newark's water in this area typically has a hardness level of 47 to 60 parts per million which means it is moderately soft.

#### Why is there chlorine in my water?

A century ago, acute diseases such as typhoid fever were a very real threat to our health because of microorganisms that caused these diseases were found in public drinking water. However, for almost 100 years, water suppliers in America and other countries have used chlorine to treat or disinfect drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other health agencies, Chlorine is currently one of the most effective disinfectants to kill harmful microorganisms. Disinfection of all public water supplies is required by federal and state laws and regulations, including the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

#### What is Turbidity?

Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. The city monitors it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfection.

#### Does Newark add fluoride to my water?

No. Newark does not add fluoride to the water in your community. However, a small amount of fluoride may occur naturally in your water. About 0.066 parts per million fluoride was detected in your water supply last year.

You may have noticed media attention to public water supply issues related to radiological substances, mercury, lead, radon, arsenic, and Cryptosporidium. At Newark, they are well aware of these water quality matters. They have performed - and continue to perform - extensive testing of all our water supplies. We want to assure our customers that we are providing the high-quality water you expect and deserve. You may be interested to know the following information:

#### Radiological Substances:

Newark's tests show radiological substances level in our water supplies is significantly less than the level deemed acceptable by the U.S. EPA. In some cases, the level is so low that it cannot be detected. These substances are naturally occurring radioactive compounds.

#### Mercury:

Newark's testing equipment can detect mercury at a level 10 times less than the standard, and even at that low level, they have not detected mercury in our supplies.

#### Lead:

While the concentration of lead leaving the NJDWSC treatment facility and the Newark Pequannock facility is far below the action level (AL) of 15 parts per billion mandated by the Federal Lead and Copper Rule (most times it is non-detectable), some communities which the Commission and Newark serves, have failed to meet the AL at the water tap. It has been determined that this lead is most likely caused by lead pipes or lead solder and faucet mixtures in home plumbing and is not coming from the source supply. It should be noted that infants and children, who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level, could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Also, adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. High concentrations of lead are more prevalent in water which sits in home plumbing pipes for a number of hours (particularly overnight).

One way to reduce these levels below the AL would be to flush a toilet or run a tap for 30 seconds to a minute or until a discernable temperature change in the water is noted. The city of Newark has run laboratory studies on water from Newark households and found that lead levels consistently dropped below the 15 ppb, after the tap was left running for 30 seconds to a minute prior to its use. Customers are encouraged to employ this technique at least once a day or when water has remained stagnant in pipes for long periods. This would generally occur in the morning or when returning home from work or school.

#### 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 may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

#### Cryptosporidium:

Lakes, rivers and reservoirs may contain this tiny microbe. It is found in feces of humans and many domestic wild animals. Newark tests for Cryptosporidium on a monthly basis in their Pequannock finished water surface water supplies. It has never been detected in a viable state in any of their treated water supplies. Neither has it been found in the Wanaque Supply.

#### Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAS):

Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are formed when raw water is treated with chlorine. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant to inactivate the disease causing organisms in the water. Trihalomethanes are a group of four chemicals Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane, and Bromoform. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of Total Trihalomethanes in drinking water is 80 parts per billion. The five regulated Haloacetic Acids are monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid and tribromoacetic acid. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids is 60 parts per billion. The United

States Environmental Protection Agency has set the MCL for both TTHMs and HAAs because they are cancer causing contaminants.

The Bloomfield Water Department is a public community water system consisting of one purchased ground water source. Bloomfield purchases water from the City of Newark. The system's source water comes from the Pequannock watershed, Cedar Grove reservoir.

### SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS FOR NEWARK WATER DEPARTMENT 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 assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of 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.

**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, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility rating.

Sources	Pathogenes			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors			
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Wells - 0																									
GUI - 0																									
Surface water intakes - 1	1					1			1			1	1					1			1	1			

- **Pathogenes:** 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.

In response to the events of September 11, and to the State's Domestic Security Preparedness Act, Newark has completed a vulnerability assessment of its water supplies, treatment plant and transmission system, provided additional security, and reviewed operations to include a greater emphasis on security issues. The City is taking the necessary proactive steps to implement the conclusions of this study.

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

## Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

## Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember to:
  - Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
  - Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or un-wrapped in a toilet.
  - Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

## Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

## Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

## Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



**As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.**

## Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it. Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

## Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.



## POSTAL PATRON

### IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION

# Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

## Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water (See page 7)

#### Contact information

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit [www.njstormwater.org](http://www.njstormwater.org) or [www.nonpointsource.org](http://www.nonpointsource.org)

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) or [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Water Quality

Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control

Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program

(609) 633-7021



April 2004



## A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
ONE MUNICIPAL PLAZA  
ROOM 203**

**Paul D. Lasek, P.E.  
Township Engineer**



**Telephone  
(973) 680-4009**

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(973) 748-3520**

**TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD**  
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3487

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**The Bloomfield Water System Has  
Levels of Trihalomethanes Above  
the Drinking Water Standards**

**O**ur water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened; what you should do and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On June 3, 2016 we received notice that samples collected on May 16, 2016 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for trihalomethanes. The average level of trihalomethanes at one of four sampling locations was 83.0 µg/L. The MCL for trihalomethanes is 80 µg/L.

## What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER** or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

## What does this mean?

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IF IT HAD BEEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS.**

However, some people who drink trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney or central nervous system and may have increased risk of getting cancer. The 2nd quarter 2016 violation is similar to and associated with the 1st quarter of 2016 as well as the 4th quarter 2015 violation. Notices for those violations were distributed in March 2016 and December of 2015, respectively. The township has been actively working toward resolving this violation as indicated below.

## What is being done?

1. A revised flushing program for the spring of 2016 will be completed by the time of the distribution of this notice.
2. A capital construction project to eliminate problematic dead-ends was completed in December of 2015. A second deadend elimination program is scheduled to be completed by December of 2016.
3. The township is also taking supplemental samples at the Newark interconnections to confirm that there is not an issue with the source water supply.

The above measures have resulted in consistently lower levels of TTHM's at all sampling locations below the MCL of 80 µg/L. A summary of these results are posted on the township website at:

<http://www.bloomfieldtpnj.com/main/node/340>.

Of note, however, is that even with the lower levels our quarterly annual average at one location remains above the MCL. It is anticipated that the township will be in compliance with the MCL by the third quarter of 2016, thereby eliminating the need for this notice.

For more information, please contact Paul D. Lasek, P.E., at 973-680-4130 or via e-mail at [plasek@bloomfieldtpnj.com](mailto:plasek@bloomfieldtpnj.com) or via mail at the Bloomfield Engineering Department, One Municipal Plaza, Room 203, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

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***\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\****

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This notice is being sent to you by the Bloomfield Water Department;  
State Water System ID#: NJ0702001.

Date distributed: June 30, 2016