

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Clinton Water Department

For the Year 2009, Results from the Year 2008

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Clinton 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.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Our water source is from nine wells. Two wells draw groundwater from the Brunswick-Shale Aquifer Formation, three wells draw from the Kittatinny Limestone Aquifer Formation, one from the Martinsburg Shale Aquifer Formation, and the other two draw from Precambrian and other conglomerate type aquifer systems.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system is available at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water 609-292-5550.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 that 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 Stormwater 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 Stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products 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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The source water assessment performed on our 9 sources determined the following:

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the eight 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 eight 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 radio nuclides 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 ratings.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			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 - 9		9		9				6	3	7		2	3	6		5	4		9			2	7	
GUDI - 0																								
Surface water - 0 intakes																								

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 is both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

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.

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

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

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

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

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.

Water Quality Data Table

The Clinton Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st 2008. 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha emitters Test results Yr. 2008	No	4.3	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Arsenic Test results Yr 2008	No	Range = ND – 0.002 Highest level detected = 0.002	ppb	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Test results Yr. 2008	No	Range = 0.06- 0.36 Highest level detected = 0.36	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Test results Yr. 2008	No	0.54 No samples exceeded the action level	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results Yr. 2008	No	0.005 No samples exceeded the action level	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test results Yr. 2008	No	Range = 0.06 – 0.36 Highest level detected = 3.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-products						
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) Test results Yr. 2008	No	Range = ND – 12 Highest Annual Average =12	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids Five Test result Yr 2008	No	Range = ND - 3 Highest Annual Average = 3	ppb	N/A	60	By product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfection Residuals						
Disinfectant Residuals (Chlorine)	No	Range = 0.3 – 0.7 Highest annual Average = 0.4	ppm	4ppm MRDL	4 ppm MRDLG	Maximum disinfectant (Chlorine residual level)
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform (positive samples/month) 2008	No	0	ppm	0	0	Naturally present in the environment

We constantly monitor the water supply for various contaminants. We have detected radon in the finished water supply in 7 out of 8 samples tested. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects.

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.

Additional information for 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 Town of Clinton Water Department 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 second 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional information for arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA'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 cost 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. The Town of Clinton Water Department has installed arsenic treatment equipment at two well locations. These wells are now back in service, the water is tested quarterly and found to be below the State of NJ DEP MCL of 5ppm.

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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Roger Plaisted, Water Superintendent at 908-735-2265 or e-mail clinton_water@earthlink.net. We want our valued customers to be informed about their drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Council meetings at the Town of Clinton Municipal Building, 43 Leigh Street. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

DEFINITIONS

In this report 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:

NA	<u>Not Applicable</u>
NR	<u>Monitoring not required</u> , but recommended.
ND	<u>Non-Detects</u> - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
ppm	<u>Parts per million</u> or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
ppb	<u>Parts per billion</u> or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
ALCi/L	<u>Picocuries per liter</u> - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
AL	<u>Action Level</u> - the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level</u> - 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.
MCLG	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</u> -The "Goal" 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.
MRDL	<u>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</u> - 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.
MRDLG	<u>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal</u> - 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.
MNR	<u>Monitored Not Regulated</u>
MPL	<u>State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level</u>

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.

This notice is being sent to you by The Town of Clinton Water Department. State Water System ID #1005001.
Date distributed:

We at **The Town of Clinton Water Department** 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. Please call our office if you have any questions at 908-735-2265.

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- VOCs, also known as volatile organic compounds, are tested by collecting one sample and testing that sample for all the VOCs. VOCs are commonly used in industrial and manufacturing processes. VOCs include benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, cis-dichloroethane, trans-dichloroethane, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, ethylbenzene, styrene, tetrachloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, toluene, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, vinyl chloride, and xylene.

TOWN OF CLINTON WATER DEPT.

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