

**TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD**

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Fairfield, NJ 07004  
(973) 882-2734

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# Fairfield Township Water Department 2013 Water Quality Report



**F**airfield Water Department is pleased to present you with the following Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report. In complying with recent legislation, we have compiled this report in order to provide you with valuable information regarding your drinking water. In reading this report we hope that you will realize the efforts made to provide you with safe potable drinking water.

**I**f you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jay Artale at (973) 882-2734. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility.

**T**he Fairfield Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The enclosed table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31, 2011.

### *Where does your water come from?*

**A**t the present time the Township of Fairfield purchases its potable water in bulk from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) is one of the largest purveyors in northern New Jersey. The water delivered by PVWC is obtained from various sources.

**T**he water which is delivered to Fairfield is received by PVWC from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC), namely the Wanaque and Monksville reservoirs. The 29.6 billion gallon Wanaque and 7.0 billion Monksville are two of the most pristine reservoirs in the country. In addition to the storage capability of these two reservoirs NJDWSC operates two pumping stations which are permitted to deliver 250 million gallons of water per day from the Ramapo River to the Wanaque Reservoir.

### *Source Water Assessments*

**T**he New Jersey 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/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550.

The Township of Fairfield is provided water by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission. The PWS ID# for NJDWSC is 1613001, and the PWS ID# for Fairfield Water Department is 0707001.

**I**f a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination 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.

**I**f you have any questions regarding the Source Water Assessment Report or Summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at [swap@dcp.state.nj.us](mailto:swap@dcp.state.nj.us) or (609) 292-5550.

### *Treatment of our Water*

**S**ince surface water may contain organisms which could make consumers ill, NJDWSC purifies the water with the addition of chlorine as the primary disinfectant. The disinfection process not only provides disinfection of the water but also maintains the disinfection of the pipes which transport the water to the Township of Fairfield. The NJDWSC Treatment plant is located in Wanaque where it filters and purifies the water to ensure its safety and potability. The purification and potability of your drinking water is monitored daily by the NJDWSC, PVWC and the Township of Fairfield Water Department.

**W**hen organic compounds in untreated water react with the disinfectant, they may produce by-products. In excessive quantities these by-products may have harmful side effects. Since the by-product levels may vary according to chlorine detention time these levels, known as trihalomethanes (THMs), are monitored not only by NJDWSC but also by PVWC and Fairfield Water Department. These THM levels routinely comply with maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set forth by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Township of Fairfield has been informed by the NJDWSC that they have recently modified the treatment process to further reduce the amount of naturally occurring organics in its watershed.

### *Conservation*

**T**he Township of Fairfield encourages water conservation. Information regarding conservation may be obtained by contacting the water department at (973) 882-2734.



## Fairfield Township Water Department

2012

## Water Quality Report

## ***Educational Information***

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 by-products 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 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 (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing 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 *Chryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the drinking 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 development 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 cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health end points upon which the standards are based.

## ***LEAD***

The Township of Fairfield is supplied with water from the North Jersey Distric Supply Commission (NJWSC), via Passaic Valley Water Commission. The Township of Fairfield was recently informed that the NJWSC has completed the installation of new processes to adjust the pH of the water. Through this pH adjustment, the pH of the supplied water will be less corrosive and therefore unable to absorb lead from household plumbing. The township monitors our supply to assure compliance with set standards.

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. Fairfield 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 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 SWafe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## ***NITRATE***

Nitrate in the drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for children under six (6) months of age. High levels of nitrate have been attributed to blue baby syndrome. Although nitrate levels may vary according to rainfall, those recorded by the township are regularly below the MCL. If you are caring for an infant and are concerned about nitrate levels you may seek advice from your child's physician.

## ***FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING***

The Fairfield Water Department flushes fire hydrants twice a year throughout the distribution system. Fire hydrant flushing helps remove any sediment from the water mains which helps to assure consistent water quality. Flushing is performed during the early morning hours to minimize any inconvenience to our customers. Flushing also ensures that the hydrants are checked for proper operation. Spring and Fall flushing are announced on local channel 34/43 as well as in local newspapers.

## ***Security***

In order to promote our customer security all of our employees carry photo IDs. Customers are urged to request this identification prior to allowing access to their homes. Should consumers have security concerns please ask the employee to wait and contact the Water Department at 882-2737. Additionally, should you doubt an employee's validity or should he/she fail to provide ID, please contact the Police Department at (973) 227-1400 or Water Department immediately.

## ***Water Quality***

On the opposite page you will find a table which outlines the 2012 testing parameters. As you can see, the Township of Fairfield and its supplier are making every effort to ensure that Fairfield continues to provide the highest quality drinking water to our customers. The table is comprised from test data received from NJWSC and analysis performed by the Township of Fairfield.

## **2012 Water Quality Data**

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects Language
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	No	33.23	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Iron	No	10	ppb	N/A	Rul 300	Naturally present in the environment	May cause staining of laundry at small levels.
Turbidity	No	.25	NTU	N/A	TT (SNTU) TT (percentage of samples <0.5 NTU)	Soil runoff	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system.
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	No	0	each	0	Presence of coliform bacteria is 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment	Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that the other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.
Barium	No	0.026	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.
Fluoride	No	.12	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits	We do not add fluoride to your drinking water.
Nitrate	No	.3.21	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Arsenic	No	N/D	ppm	N/A	5	Natural erosion of soil deposits	Over exposure may cause skin damage. Increase cancer risk.
Manganese	No	0.004	ppb	N/A	Rul 50	Erosion of soil deposits	May cause staining of laundry.
Copper	No	0.61	ppm	N/A	1.3	Corrosion of plumbing	Higher levels of copper may cause kidney and liver damage in children and adults.
Lead	No	<0.002	ppm	N/A	0.015	Corrosion of plumbing	High levels of lead delays the physical and mental development in infants and children as well as kidney problems and high blood pressure in adults.

## ***Information Sites***

EPA Drinking Water Website ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater))  
Fairfield Water Department (973) 882-2734

Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791  
New Jersey Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (609) 292-5550

## ***Terminology***

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) = The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) = 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.

SMCL = Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level. Recommended to protect aesthetic quality.

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

Treatment Technique = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NJDEP = New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The primary regulatory agency which oversees the proper operation of the state's water purveyors.

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency. The federal agency which governs the individual state agencies.

NS = No Standard. At this time there is no standard available or testing required for this parameter.

PPM = Parts Per Million.

PPB = Parts Per Billion.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

RUL = Recommended Upper Limit. The highest level of a constituent of drinking water that is recommended in order to protect aesthetic quality.

N/D = Not Detected.