



Important Information!

This report contains important information
about your drinking water.

PWSID # NJ0408001



United Water Camden – Consumer Confidence Report

2006



Dear Customer

United Water Camden is a partnership between United Water and the City of Camden. Through this partnership, the City retains ownership of all the water facilities and sets the rates. United Water, as contract operator, provides the day to day management of the water system. These organizations work together to provide you with water that meets—and often surpasses—all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the NJDEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the NJDEP establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to mail a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to customers on an annual basis. This CCR contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at 800 334 9781 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Waiver Information

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), lead and copper, and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs). Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and SOCs, and a monitoring reduction waiver for lead and copper testing.

We have the asbestos waiver because we do not have any asbestos cement pipe in the distribution system. We have a synthetic organic chemical (SOC) waiver because we are not vulnerable to this type of contamination. We have a waiver to reduce lead and copper testing due to the prior history of sampling that met SDWA standards.

About Your Water Supply

The Camden Water System serves all portions of Camden City except the area east of the Cooper River, providing water to an estimated 50,000 customers.

The source of the water is groundwater from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy formation, an underground aquifer. The water system is served by two treatment plants: the Morris-Delair Plant in Pennsauken, NJ, and the Parkside Plant in the City of Camden.

The Camden City Council meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at City Hall. Residents are welcome to attend and participate in these meetings, and may inquire about any water system issues of interest. For meeting information, contact Norma Ruiz at 856 757 7115 or 7119.

About the Treatment Process

Morris-Delair

This plant has a capacity of 18 million gallons per day (mgd). With the exception of iron, manganese, sodium and VOCs, the water source for this facility is considered to be of good quality. The plant treatment system allows the water to meet the federal and state primary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and to generally meet secondary recommended limits for iron and manganese. The raw water also contains VOCs and the treatment technologies we use reduce the concentrations below the MCL to meet state and federal limits. This facility is the primary source of water for the City.

Parkside

This plant has a capacity of 3 mgd. The raw water also contains VOCs and the treatment technologies we use reduce the concentrations below the MCL to meet state and federal limits. Both water sources contain iron, manganese and sodium, which are secondary limits for drinking water. These compounds are generally considered aesthetic and not major health concerns. This facility is the secondary source of water for the City.



Drinking Water Quality Table

The water quality table shows how the quality of your drinking water in 2006 compared to the standards set by the USEPA and the NJDEP. When standards differed, the more stringent standard was used for the MCL.

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 infections by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791.

Primary Standards - Directly related to the safety of drinking water. We detected the following substances in this category.

Substance

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Barium ppm	2	2	0.04	0.01 - 0.04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium ppb	100	100	<10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury ppb	2	2	0.20	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as nitrogen ppm	10	10	2.12	ND - 2.12	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite as nitrogen ppm	1	1	0.06	ND - 0.06	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Copper and Lead	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Samples > AL	Violation	Likely Source
Copper ppm	1.3	1.3	0.17	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead ppb	0	15	3.2	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Volatile Organic Compounds*	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
MTBE ppb	70	70	1	ND - 1	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Trichloroethylene ppb	0	1	0.5	ND - 0.5	No	Discharge from factories and metal degreasing

*Compliance based on highest annual average of quarterly samples.

Radionuclides	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Gross alpha pCi/L	0	15	10	4.66 -10	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (226/228) pCi/L	0	5	3.2	1.58 - 3.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Organic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
HAA5 ppb running annual average (HAA5: dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid)	NA	30	6	3 - 9	No	Disinfection by-product
TTHMs ppb running annual average (TTHMs: bromoform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, chloroform)	NA	40	15.5	13 - 19	No	Disinfection by-product

Secondary Standards - Related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water.

Substance	NJ RUL*	Highest Result**	Range of Results	Likely Source
Chloride ppm	250	66	33 - 66	Natural mineral, road salt
Color CU	10	5	NA	Naturally occurring
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Naturally occurring
Hardness (as CaCO ₃) ppm	250	140	110 - 140	Natural mineral
Iron ppb#	300	330	ND - 330	Natural mineral
Manganese ppb##	50	53	ND - 53	Natural mineral
pH units	6.5 - 8.5	8.4	7.7 - 8.4	Treatment process
Sodium ppm###	50	50	26 - 50	Natural mineral, road salt
Sulfate ppm	250	87	19 - 87	Natural mineral
Total dissolved solids ppm	500	320	166 - 320	Natural mineral

*New Jersey Recommended Upper Limit

**Highest results are based upon the highest single sample.

The recommended upper limit for iron is based on unpleasant taste of the water and staining of laundry. Iron is an essential nutrient but some people who drink water with iron levels well above the recommended upper limit could develop deposits of iron in a number of organs of the body.

The recommended upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient and toxicity is not expected from levels which would be encountered in drinking water.

Highest reported result is average of all samples collected. 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 RUL may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Note on exceedences: Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL)

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

CU

Color unit.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

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.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

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 disinfectant to control microbial contamination.

NA

Not applicable.

ND

Not detected.

NTU

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

ppb

Parts per billion. The equivalent of one second in 32 years.

ppm

Parts per million. The equivalent of one second in 12 days.

pCi/L

Picocuries per liter. The equivalent of one second in 32 million years.

Primary Standards

Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related. Water suppliers must meet all primary drinking water standards.

Secondary Standards

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

TON

Threshold Odor Number.

Treatment Technique (TT)

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

Source Water Assessment Program

The 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/ or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609 292 5550.

The table below illustrates the susceptibility rating for each individual source for each of the contaminant categories in the City of Camden system. For susceptibility ratings refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report. NJDEP considered all surface water more susceptible to pathogen contamination than ground water. The City of Camden utilizes ground water exclusively. 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, NJDEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at swap@dep.state.nj.us or 609 292 5550. The source water assessment performed on the City's source of water determined the following:

Susceptibility Rating for the City of Camden O&M by United Water

EPTDS ID	Source ID	Source Name	Pathogens Rating	Nutrients Rating	Pesticides Rating	VOCs Rating	Inorganics Rating	Radionuclides Rating	Radon Rating	DBPs Rating
01	01	Morris-Delair	M	M	L	H	H	M	M	M
03	03	Parkside	M	M	L	H	H	M	M	M

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

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): 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 (DBPs): A common source 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.

L, M, H: Low, Medium, High, susceptibility.

Health Notes

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791.

Lead Information

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 two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800 426 4791.



Important Information

- Please pass this information along to those who speak Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Gujarti or Arabic.
- Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
- Este reporte contem informações importantes sobre a sua água de beber. Traduza-o ou fale com alguém que o compreenda.
- 아래의 보고는 귀하께서 드시는 식수에 대한
중요한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다.
번역을 하시느라 여념이 없다면 이 보고를 알고 이해하시는
분과 의논 하시기를 바랍니다.
- આ અહેવાલ મિં તમારી પીવાના પાણી વિષે
અગત્ય ની જાણકારી આપવા માં આવી છે.
અને અગત્ય કરો અથવા જેને સમજાવી પડતી
ભાષા તેની આપે માત્ર કરો
- المعلومات في هذا التقرير تحتوي على
معلومات مهمة عن مياه الشرب التي
تشربها. من فضلك اذا لم تفهم هذه
المعلومات اطلب من يترجمها لك.

Bottled Water or Tap Water?

The sources of drinking water (for both tap 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 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 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 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the 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. So, what's the bottom line? If bottled and tap water meet the federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water is substantially less expensive than bottled water.

