Annual Drinking Water Report

Salem City Water Department
For the Year 2021, Results from the Year 2020

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.

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources include four wells. Our wells draw groundwater from the Mount Laurel-Wenonah Aquifer at a depth of over 160 feet. Three are all located in the City of Salem and the forth in Quinton Township. In addition, we can draw surface water from two other sources, one located in Quinton Township and the other in Alloway Township. This report is designed to inform you about the quality drinking water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this drinking water system, which is available at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP’s Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also call (856) 935-0350 to obtain information regarding your water system’s Source Water Assessment. This water system’s source water susceptibility ratings, and a list of potential contaminant sources is attached.

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 EPA requires monitoring for over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table are only contaminants detected in your water. The Salem Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table above shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January to December 2019. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Results</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contaminant</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Inorganic Contaminants:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barium Test results Yr. 2018</td>
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<td>Copper Result at 90th Percentile Test results Yr. 2018</td>
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<td>Lead Result at 90th Percentile Test results Yr. 2018</td>
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<td>Nickel Test results Yr. 2018</td>
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<td><strong>Volatile Organic Contaminants / Disinfection Byproducts:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE) Test results Yr. 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAAs Haloacetic Acids Test results yr. 2020</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Disinfectants</th>
<th><strong>Level Detected</strong></th>
<th>MRDL</th>
<th>MRDLG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine Test results Yr. 2020</td>
<td>Average = 1.0</td>
<td>4.0 ppm</td>
<td>4.0 ppm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 projection, 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 byproducts 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 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 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.

**DEFINITIONS**

In the “Test Results” tables you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams 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 $10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Taste and Odor (T&O)** - a measure of the aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance.
- **Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)** - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL’s are recommendations, not mandates.
- **Secondary Contaminant** - Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDGL)**: 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.
The plant experienced overwhelming taste and odor issues through the summer of 2012 and the summer of 2013. The City drilled a well in 2014 and has been utilizing 100% groundwater ever since with the exception of a few days in February 2015, due to a deep freeze and an inordinate amount of water mains breaks. Groundwater does not produce taste and odor issues. The City intends to continue to use ground water until such time design issues are addressed and implemented before returning to surface water. When the plant was under construction from approximately 2010 through 2012, the NJDEP sent the City a letter listing the requirements set forth by the construction permit. The letter required Salem to demonstrate removal/inactivation equal to or greater than the credit awarded of $5.5 —log removal/inactivation for Cryptosporidium, per 40 C.F.R. SS 141.715, 141.719 and 141.720 and provide documentation that the UV Validation test had been completed and submitted to the NJDEP, in accordance with C.F.R. S 141.720(d)(2) and N.J.A.C. 7:10-3.2 and 3.3. Salem failed to meet these requirements in violation of the regulations. Once the Water and Sewer Department became aware of the violations, we reached out to the manufacturer of the UV equipment for a copy of the validation tests that they have run on their equipment. The City has been working with the manufacture of the UV Company, the USEPA as well as the NJDEP in regards to the acceptance of the information submitted by the UV Company. A decision as to the acceptance of the information submitted is currently under review by the NJDEP and EPA. The City was also required by the NJDEP in May of 2014 to change the location of a sampling site originally determined by the NJDEP to be the required site for quarterly THM and HAA5 sampling. After several rounds of sampling, it was concluded by the NJDEP that the original site was too close to another sampling site thus revealing similar results. The City was directed by the NJDEP to move to another location deemed more representative of the distribution system. The City moved to that site at once and has been sampling there ever since. The City failed to modify and submit a Stage 2 Monitoring Plan, as required by the NJDEP and USEPA in accordance with 40 C.F.R S141.622. That requirement has since been completed.

It should be pointed out, that anything we add to our water is required to meet stringent standards in the industry. Any substance added to our water must meet American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards.

**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 Salem City 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 and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. To determine if you have a lead service line, please contact your drinking water utility.

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 the contaminant asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

**Salem Water Department - PWSID # NJ1712001**

Salem Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 4 wells and 2 surface water intakes.

This system’s source water comes from the following aquifers or surface water bodies: Elkin Pond, Laurel Lake, Mount Laurel-Wenonah Aquifer System

**Susceptibility Ratings for Salem 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 water 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 ratings.

### 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
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 chlor dane.

### 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](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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Pathogens</th>
<th>Nutrients</th>
<th>Pesticides</th>
<th>Volatile Organic Compounds</th>
<th>Inorganics</th>
<th>Radionuclides</th>
<th>Radon</th>
<th>Disinfection Byproduct Precursors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wells - 4</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface water intakes - 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Salem City Water Department works 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.