

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

• WASTEWATER TREATMENT • PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY •

## Drinking Water Quality Report 2021 Report for Test Results from 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 of 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. 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.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe in accordance with federal & state requirements.**

### WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The Washington Township MUA operates two separate water systems which supply water to portions of the Township. The map illustrates the location of the water systems that are operated by the WTMUA. All of the water supplied to our customers currently comes from a total of thirteen wells.

### 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 have provided the following definitions:

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Chlorine** - Water additive used to control microbes.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal" MCLG 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. **MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for seventy years to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - 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.

**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 disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**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.

**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.

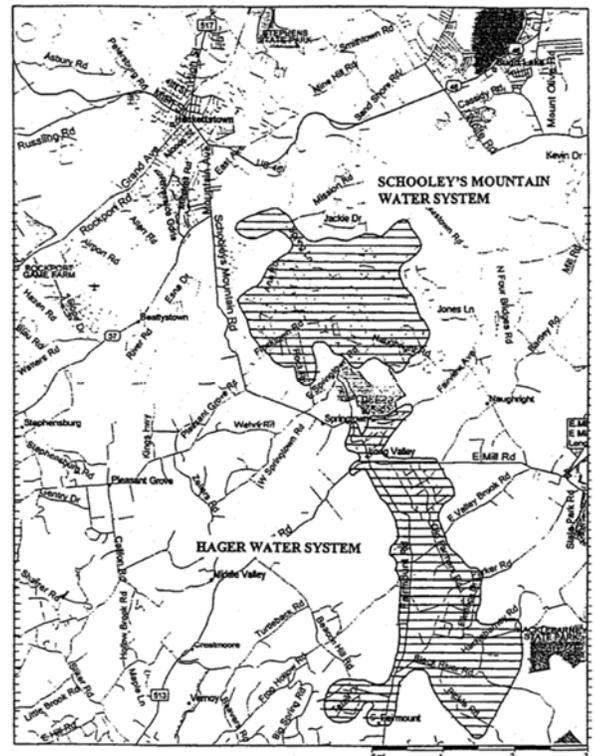
**Parts per trillion (ppt)** or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)** - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. 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.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.



## MONITORING OF THE WATER

The Washington Township MUA routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. 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 a monitoring waiver for asbestos.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**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 other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

## SUBSTANCES TO BE EXPECTED IN DRINKING WATER

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. It can also 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 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. They 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.

## ADDITIONAL TREATMENT

To ensure the continued quality of our water, we treat it in several ways. All water sources are treated with chemicals to adjust the natural pH of the water and provide disinfection of the source water. We also treat the water supplied to a portion of the Schooley's Mountain water system with polyphosphate to sequester iron and manganese to prevent dirty water and staining of laundry.

## RADON

In addition to monitoring for the constituents required by federal and state regulations, we monitored for radon in our source water supplies during 2006. We detected radon in the finished water supply at all but one of our source water supplies. The results are included in the Table of Non-Regulated Substances. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Of greater concern than the radon in the concentrations detected in the WTMUA's source water supplies is the radon detected in indoor air. Radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. The Washington Township Health Department has radon test kits for purchase. You can contact them at 908-876-3650. For additional information, call the EPA's Radon Hotline (800-55RADON) or NJDEP Radon Section (800-648-0394).

## WHAT'S IN MY WATER

The tables below show the results of our monitoring. 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, is more than one year old. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this Report or concerning your water utility, please contact the WTMUA at 908-876-3145. If you want to learn more, please visit our web site at [www.wtmua.org](http://www.wtmua.org) or attend any of our regularly scheduled WTMUA meetings at 46 East Mill Road, Long Valley. Meetings are mostly held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all upcoming public meetings (until further notice) will be held online/by phone. The public can join by one of two options; Online Link – Google Meet or by telephone. A complete meeting schedule and information to join the meeting via Google Meet or telephone is posted on our website and the bulletin board outside the offices at 46 East Mill Rd.

<b>Schooley's Mountain Test Results (PWS ID #NJ1438004)</b>						
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Units of Measurement</b>	<b>MCL G</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Combined Radium 228 & 226 Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 1.5 Highest detect = 1.5	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Barium Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 0.005 – 0.06 Highest detect = 0.06	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2018	N	0.43 No samples exceeded the action level	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 5.4 Highest detect = 5.4	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Lead Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2018	N	2.4 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. 2020	N	Range = ND – 3.6 Highest detect = 3.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 1.3 Highest detect = 1.3	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
<b>Disinfection Byproducts/ Volatile Organic Contaminants:</b>						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 1 – 2 Highest detect = 2	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Secondary Contaminant</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Units of Measurement</b>		<b>RUL</b>	
Sodium Test results Yr. 2018		Range = 9 – 58	ppm		50	
Manganese Test results Yr. 2018		Range = ND – 169	ppb		50	
<b>Regulated Disinfectants</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>MRDL</b>		<b>MRDLG</b>	
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2020		Range = 0.6 – 0.7 ppm Average = 0.6 ppm	4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm	

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

- The Schooley's Mountain System exceeded the secondary Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) for manganese which 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. Manganese is a naturally occurring element in soil, groundwater, and some surface waters. Manganese is considered harmless to health however, they may give water an off taste or color, cause splotchy yellow stains on laundry, and clog water systems.
- The Schooley's Mountain System slightly exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit for 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 (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.
- The Schooley's Mountain System violated a Monitoring and Reporting (M & R) drinking water standard in 2020. Although this was not an emergency as our residents, you have a right to know what happened. We were required to monitor quarterly for the following three new contaminants in 2020, at all of our drinking water treatment facilities. We have eight. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter results from three of those treatment plants were submitted late. All sampling was done correctly. We believe the laboratory inadvertently submitted the monitoring results late, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) posted the results late.

1,2,3-TRICHLOROPROPANE, 1,2-DIBROMO-3-CHLOROPROPANE, ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE

**We do not believe that any of these should be considered actual M & R violations since the sampling was done correctly.**

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time.

<b>Hager System Test Results (PWSID #NJ1438003)</b>						
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Units of Measurement</b>	<b>MC LG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Combined Radium 228 & 226 Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 1.5 Highest detect = 1.5	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Barium Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 0.02 – 0.05 Highest detect = 0.05	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2018	N	0.18 No samples exceeded the action level	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 0.3 Highest detect = 0.3	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Test results Yr. 2018	N	2.6 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. 2020	N	Range = 1.0 – 3.1 Highest detect = 3.1	ppb	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 6 – 15 Highest detect = 15	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = ND – 1 Highest detect = 1	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Secondary Contaminant</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Units of Measurement</b>		<b>RUL</b>	
Sodium Test results Yr. 2018		Range = 12 – 69	ppm		50	
<b>Regulated Disinfectants</b>		<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>MRDL</b>		<b>MRDLG</b>	
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2019		Range = 0.7 – 0.8 ppm Average = 0.8 ppm	4.0 ppm		4.0 ppm	

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

- The Hager System slightly exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit for 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 (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING

The Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority monitored for the following unregulated contaminants in 2019 & 2020. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and NJDEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely found in the environment. EPA has identified a health advisory level for two PFAS analytes, PFOA and PFOS 0.070 ppb either singly or combined, and NJDEP has adopted new drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFOA and PFOS of 14 ng/L (ppt) and 13 ng/L (ppt), respectively, as of January 2021. The detected levels of PFOA and PFOS found are below DEP's MCLs.

### Schooley's Mountain System

Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	Likely source
(PFOS) Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	Range = ND – 8.8	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	Range = ND – 8.5	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.

### Hager System

Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	Likely source
(PFOS) Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	Range = ND – 4.2	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	Range = ND – 5.8	ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.

### What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at: [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs\\_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-\(003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-(003).pdf)

## HEALTH EFFECTS

### Inorganic Contaminants

- **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 Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority 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>. However, for those served by a lead service line, flushing times may vary based on the length of the service line and plumbing configuration in your home. If your home is set back further from the street a longer flushing time may be needed. *To conserve water, other household water usage activities such as showering, washing clothes, and running the dishwasher are effective methods of flushing out water from a service line.* To determine if you have a lead service line, please contact your drinking water utility.
- **Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 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 advice from your health care provider

### Secondary Contaminants

- **Iron:** Aesthetic and cosmetic effects only.
- **Manganese:** Aesthetic and cosmetic effects only.
- **Sodium:** For healthy individuals, sodium intake from water is not critical because a much greater intake of sodium is due to salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on sodium restricted diets.

### Non-Regulated Substances

We constantly monitor the water supply for various contaminants. We have detected radon in the finished water supply. 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.

Non-Regulated Substance	Level Detected	Units	Likely Source
Radon	Range = ND – 2320	PCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits

### PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for these public water systems, which are available 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. The source water assessment performed on our sources determined the following which is illustrated in the table below. This table shows the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in our systems. The table provides the number of wells that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. The seven contaminant categories are defined below the tables.

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.

SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN WATER SYSTEM																								
	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Organic			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Susceptibility Rating	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Number of Wells	1	1	6	6	1	1		3	5			8			8	1	6	1	7	1			8	

HAGAR WATER SYSTEM																								
	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Organic			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Susceptibility Rating	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Number of Wells	1	5		4	2			2	4			6			6	2	4		6			2	4	

- **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 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 found when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.