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Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Borough of Collingswood Water Department
For the Year 2004, Results from the Year 2003

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.

Our water is safe to drink and meets all water quality standards set by the State and Federal agencies. For more information or questions, please call John A. Meier, Borough of Collingswood Water Department Superintendent, at 856-854-2332. The Borough of Collingswood Commissioner meetings are held on the first Monday of each month starting at 7pm. We encourage public participation in decisions that affect our drinking water quality.

History:

The Borough of Collingswood supplies drinking water to all of Collingswood, Woodlynne and a portion of Haddon Township. Our service area covers approximately 50 linear miles of water mains ranging from 4" to 16"with 6,000 active service connections serving approximately 21,00 people. All service connections for business and residents are metered. The Borough of Collingswood complies with the entire New Jersey Board of Public Utilities meter testing regulations and will, on request, test any meter when a customer has a concern about water consumption during any billing cycle.

Water Source:

The Borough of Collingswood currently obtains its entire water supply from seven ground water wells drilled and sunk into the Potomac Raritan Aquifer located throughout the Borough of Collingswood. Five of the wells located at the vicinity of the Highland & Hillcrest Ave. pump untreated water to our main treatment plant through a network of underground pipes. Two additional wells located at Comly & Cattell Avenues pump untreated water to our secondary water plant at Comly Avenue. The water is processed and pumped to our customers.

Our Treatment Facilities Consist of:

Aeration: The process of bringing water and air into contact in order to remove dissolved gases which may be corrosive to our water supply.

Sedimentation: The process of removing suspended matters such as iron and manganese by gravity settling.

Filtration: Removing almost all suspended matter that remains by passing the Water through a sand medium.

Corrosion Control: The addition of a zinc phosphate to control scaling and deposits formation on water lines.

Air Stripping: A tower aerator consisting of a cylindrical tank filled with a Packing material. Water is distributed over the material at the top of the tank while

Air is forced through the bottom using a blower. The primary purpose of air Stripping is to remove all traces of Volatile Organic Compounds.

Disinfection: Chlorine is added as the final treatment before entering the water Distribution system.

The following information is required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to be placed in all **Consumer Confidence Reports.**

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 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 from animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure 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 provide the same protection for public health.

* 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

* Pesticides and herbicides, which may occur from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential use.

* 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 in drinking water and the 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. Immuno-compromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptsoridium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

Water Quality Data Table Explanation:

This portion of the report is based upon testing conducted in the years 1997 and 1998 by the Borough of Collingswood. In the table that follows, you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms; we've provided the following definition

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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 contamination

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal: 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of contamination 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 or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Picocuries Per Liter or pCi/L: A measure of radioactivity

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Parts Per Million/ Parts Per Billion: For example, one part per million is the equivalent a 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons). One part per billion is equivalent to a 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that contamination is not present.

Inorganic Compounds: The mineral-type compounds, such as metals and salts found in drinking water

Secondary Compounds: compounds, which effect drinking water aesthetics such as taste, odor and color.

Source: The major origin of the compounds detected in water.

90th percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

Water Footnotes:

1. The Borough of Collingswood tested over 240 microbiological analyses in the distribution system in 2003. No presence of coliform bacteria was detected in any of the sample analyses.

2. Nitrate test at both water plants was taken in 2003. Both results indicated less then .5 PPM Nitrate entering the water system. The results were well in compliance with the maximum level set at 10PPM.

3. A sample for Asbestos was taken in the water distribution system in 2002. No concentration of Asbestos was detected.

4. The Borough of Collingswood was required in 2003 to complete two rounds of sampling for Unregulated contaminates. All test analysis results for the sampling were non-detected. The results of the analysis can be viewed on the USEPA website at EPACDX.LMI.ORG.

5. The Borough of Collingswood will be testing for lead and copper at residents taps throughout our water system in 2004.

The Borough of Collingswood Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2003.

Water Quality Table
2003

Inorganic Compounds

Substances.	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detection	Range	Source	Violation
Barium	ppb	2	2	.065	.024to .090	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	.08	.08-to09	Erosion of natural Deposits	No
Sulfate	ppm	250	*	26.3	38.4to 42.0	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No

Secondary Chemical Compounds

Chloride	ppm	50	250	30.26	25.8 t o 28.3	Erosion of natural Deposits	No
Zinc	ppm	5	*	.087	.099 to .178	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	500	500	194	200 to 240	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	.235	.023 to.23	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No

Lead & Copper							
90th Percentile Lead	ppb	15	0	2.6	0 to 2.6	Corrosion of Household Plumbing	No
90th Percentile Copper	ppm	1.3	0	.113	0 to .113	Corrosion of Household	No
THM (Total trihalomethane)	ppb	80	n/a	15.8	8.0to 15.8	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination	No

Radioactive Compounds							
Total Alpha	pCi/l	15	0	7.2	7.2 to 7.2	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Radium-226	pCi/l	4	0	.22	.22 to .22	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Radium-228	pCi/l	4	0	.76	.76 to.76	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No

Volatile Organics

Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest detection	Range	Source	Violation
cis-1,2Dichloroethene	PPB	70	70	7.31	0 to 6.5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	No
1,2-Dichloroethane	PPB	2	2	.61	0 to.07	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	No
Vinyl Chloride	PPB	2	0	1.68	0 to 1.0	Leaching from PVC piping or discharge from plastic factories	No

NOTE:

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State safety requirements.

Special Consideration Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers, and Others.

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than adults may. For this reason, reproductive or developmental 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 developmental 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 the case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six month 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 for advice from your health care provider.

Lead: 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 2 minutes before using tap water.
Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The following simple steps can be taken to avoid possible exposure to lead and copper.

1. Allow the water to run until it is cold (about 30-60 seconds) if the water has been standing in the internal plumbing pipes for over six hours.

2. Use only cold water for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula.

3. Use only lead free solders when making plumbing repairs.

4. If you replace faucets, check the label for lead content or lead leaching Potential.

Source Water Assessment:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is preparing Source Water Assessment Reports and summaries for all public water systems, which are expected to be complete in 2004. Further information on the Source water protection Program can be obtained by logging onto NJDEP's source water web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550.

Unregulated Contaminants

The Borough of Collingswood is not required by EPA or NJDEP to sample for Cryptosporidum or Radon.

Additional Contaminants Monitored

The Borough of Collingswood tested for Asbestos in November of 2002 and indicated Non Detects (ND) of Asbestos fibers in the drinking water.

The Borough of Collingswood does not add fluoride to the water. However, natural fluoride was detected at **.08 ppm in 2003**. Parents of young children may want to consult with their dentist about their need for fluoride treatments.

Variances and Exemptions

The New Jersey Bureau of Safe Drinking Water issued the Borough of Collingswood a waiver for the sampling of synthetic organic compounds (SOCs)/ pesticides based on the vulnerability of the source water to possible contamination by these substances. The waiver was granted for the compliance period 1999-2001. Samples were collected and analyzed by NJDEP at our # 5 well, which did not indicate any SOC, s exceeding their respective trigger values. The next round of sampling will take place for the 2002-2004 monitoring period.

Capital Improvements:

We are in the process of putting together our five-year capital plan in which we will outline priority infrastructure projects. Some of the projects will include continuing commitment to upgrade our existing treatment plants and replace undersized water mains, service connections and fire hydrants throughout our water system. Major projects planned for 2004 include the complete rehabilitation of our 1.5 million gallon water tank located on North Atlantic Ave.

The events of September 11 have clearly demonstrated the importance of water supply systems throughout the United States. The Borough of Collingswood is making every effort to implement and develop plans to protect all aspects of our water supply infrastructure while working closely with all the respected regulatory and enforcement agencies. The Borough of Collingswood is required by federal law to develop and implement a vulnerability assessment of our water system. This assessment is to be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by July 1 of 2004.

The Borough of Collingswood is committed to providing our customers with the highest quality of water and service.

We believe in education and strongly urge our employees to attend various classes and seminars on water treatment processes and distribution operations. All licensed water operational personnel are mandated to continue training under the Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations.

Water Department Superintendent John A. Meier prepared this report. Should you have any additional questions about our water supply or service, please feel free to contact us at any time at 856-854-2332.