

# your water quality information

consumer confidence report

issued june 2016

**SUEZ** | Jersey City Operations

PWSID # NJ0906001

This report contains important information about your drinking water.  
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



# our commitment to you



**"We take great pride in our ability to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal standards."**

Dear Customer,

The Jersey City Water System is a partnership between SUEZ and the City of Jersey City. Through this partnership, the City retains ownership of all the water facilities including the treatment plant, watershed and distribution system. The Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) is responsible for the oversight of the City's water system. SUEZ, 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 provide 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 800.575.4433 if you have any questions.

In addition, you can write to us at 69 DeVoe Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601. 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. For more information about SUEZ see our website [www.mysuezwater.com](http://www.mysuezwater.com).

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**Chris Riat**

Senior Director, Contract Operations

## who we are

SUEZ provides water and wastewater services to over 7 million people in the United States. In addition to owning and operating regulated utilities, SUEZ operates municipal systems through public-private partnerships and contract agreements. Three of the nation's largest water and wastewater contracts are operated by SUEZ.

## about your water supply

Your water comes from the Jersey City Reservoir at Boonton, as well as the Split Rock Reservoir in Rockaway Township. The source for this water is a 120 square mile watershed that drains into these two reservoirs. Combined, these two reservoirs can store 11.3 billion gallons of water.

The Jersey City Water Treatment Plant purifies about 50 million gallons of water a day on average and can treat up to 80 million gallons a day during peak periods. Purified water moves by gravity through 23 miles of aqueduct and 300 miles of water mains. From time to time you may receive water from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, the Passaic Valley Water Commission or the City of Newark when routine maintenance is performed on the plant, aqueduct and mains. We strive to provide our customers with a safe, sure supply of water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

---

## about the treatment process

We strive to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all federal and state standards. Your water is purified at the Jersey City Water Treatment Plant in Boonton.

We use coagulants and filter the water to remove impurities and microscopic particles. A small amount of chlorine is then added to disinfect the water. Finally, we apply corrosion control chemicals to reduce the chance of lead and copper dissolving in the water from household plumbing.

To further ensure the safety of your water, we monitor it before, during and after the treatment process. For example, we routinely test the water at the rivers, lakes, and streams that supply drinking water. We also sample and test treated water to be sure that it remains pure as it travels to your home.

---

## lead and your drinking water

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. Jersey City 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 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>.

Frequently asked questions about lead in drinking water can be found here:  
[https://www.mysuezwater.com/sites/default/files/SUEZ\\_8.5x11\\_Lead\\_FAQ.pdf](https://www.mysuezwater.com/sites/default/files/SUEZ_8.5x11_Lead_FAQ.pdf)

---

## 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) and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs). Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and SOCs.

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.

# drinking water quality

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. The table below shows how the quality of your drinking water in 2015 compared to the standards set by the NJDEP.

## primary standards - directly related to the safety of drinking water.

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest* Result	Range of Results#	Violation	Likely Source
Barium ppm	2	2	0.02	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries
Nitrate as nitrogen ppm	10	10	0.44	0.16 - 0.44	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Copper and Lead	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Samples >AL	Violation	Likely Source
Copper ppm	1.3	1.3	0.14	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead ppb	0	15	7.4	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Microbiologicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest** Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Total coliforms (% in monthly samples)	0	5% monthly with TT Positive routine and repeat sample	7.7%	0.0% - 7.7%	Yes*	Naturally present in the environment
*Please see additional information about this coliform exceedance on page 7.						
Disinfectant Residual	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest Result RAA	Range of Results#	Violation	Likely Source
Chlorine ppm	4	4.0	1.04	ND - 1.51	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Note: Disinfectant Residual range of results are site specific.						
TOC Removal	MCLG	MCL	Lowest Ratio RAA	Range of Ratio (Monthly Ratio)	Violation	Likely Source
TOC Removal Ratio (RAA)	NA	NA	1.25	1.00 - 1.63	No	Naturally present in the environment
Disinfectant By-Products - Stage 2	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result LRAA	Range of Results#	Violation	Likely Source
HAA5 ppb (HAA5: dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid)	NA	60	37.0	ND - 44.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total THMs ppb (THMs: bromoform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, chloroform)	NA	80	78.2	23.6 - 98.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Likely Source
Turbidity NTU* (monthly avg. plant)	NA	TT=1NTU TT=95% <0.3NTU	0.22 100.0%	0.06 - 0.22 NA	No	Soil run-off

\*Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

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

\*\*Highest results are based upon the highest monthly results.

#The Range of Results represent the lowest and highest detection during the monitoring year.

RAA=Running Annual Average

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average is the yearly average of all the results at each specific sampling site in the distribution system.

## secondary standards – water quality parameters related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water.

Substance	NJ RUL**	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Likely Source
Alkalinity ppm	NA	64	34 - 64	Natural mineral
Aluminum ppb	200	95	ND - 95	Treatment process
Calcium ppm	NA	26	18 - 26	Natural mineral
Chloride ppm	250	134	93 - 134	Natural mineral, road salt
Color CU	10	10	5 - 10	Natural mineral and organic matter
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	NA	Natural mineral, road salt, (A phosphate based corrosion inhibitor is applied)
Hardness (as CaCO3) ppm	250	113	84 - 113	Natural mineral
Iron ppb	300	15	ND - 15	Erosion of natural deposits and oxidation of iron components
Manganese ppb^	50	204	ND - 204	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor TON	3	1C	N - 1C	Naturally occurring, chlorine
pH	6.5 - 8.5	7.72	6.76 - 7.72	Natural mineral, treatment process
Sodium ppm^^	50	61	46 - 79	Natural mineral, road salt
Specific Conductance, umhos	NA	852	408 - 852	Natural mineral
Sulfate ppm	250	12	NA	Natural mineral
Total Dissolved Solids ppm	500	344	189 - 344	Natural mineral
Zinc ppm	5	0.04	ND - 0.04	Erosion of natural deposits and industrial discharge

^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.

^^Jersey City was above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) 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 RUL may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet. Highest Result is based on the Running Annual Average (RAA), due to multiple samples collected for sodium during 2015. Please see additional sodium information on page 7.

\*\* New Jersey Recommended Upper Limit.

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

## unregulated substances – for which the epa requires monitoring.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and DEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted.

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Chromium ppb	NA	100	0.31	ND - 0.31	No	Prevalent natural element
Strontium ppb	NA	NA	100	87 - 100	No	Naturally occurring element
Vanadium ppb	NA	NA	0.22	ND - 0.22	No	Naturally occurring element
Chlorate ppb	NA	NA	160	64 - 160	No	Known by-product of the drinking water disinfection process, forming when sodium hypochlorite or chlorine dioxide are used in the disinfection process
Chromium (VI) ug/L	NA	NA	0.088	ND - 0.088	No	Industries that process or use chromium, chromium compounds, or chromium processes

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

Additional information about unregulated contaminants can be found at the following link, courtesy of American Water Works Association:  
<http://www.drinktap.org/home/water-information/water-quality/ucmr3.aspx>

## 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.

**NJ RUL:** New Jersey Recommended Upper Limit

**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 <http://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 Jersey City Water System. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report. NJDEP 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.

If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at [watersupply@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:watersupply@dep.state.nj.us) or 609.292.5550. The source water assessment performed on our single source of water (one surface water intake) is detailed on the table entitled "Susceptibility Rating".

## susceptibility rating for Jersey City water sources

EPTDS Number	Source ID	Source Name	Pathogens Rating	Nutrients Rating	Pesticides Rating	VOCs Rating	Inorganics Rating	Radionuclides Rating	Radon Rating	DBPs Rating
01	003	Boonton Reservoir	H	M	L	M	M	L	L	H

## definitions

**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.

**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 react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

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

**P:** Pumped into surface supply.

**U:** Not in Use/Out of Service

**For more information on radon go to:**  
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or  
 call 800.648.0394.

## important information

Please pass this information along to those who speak Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Gujarati or Arabic:

• Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

• Este reporte contém informações importantes sobre a sua água de beber. Traduza-o ou fale com alguém que o compreenda.

• 아래에 보고는 귀하에게 매우 중요한 정보를 제공합니다. 이 보고를 잘 읽고 이해하십시오. 이 보고를 잘 읽고 이해하십시오. 이 보고를 잘 읽고 이해하십시오.

• આ અહેવાલ મને પાણી પીવાના સુધારા વિશે અગત્યની માહિતી આપે છે. અમારો અનુભવ કરો અથવા જેને અમારો હશે તેમ તેના સાથે આવ 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.



## explanation of coliform exceedance

The Jersey City Water System, operated by SUEZ, violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. During the month of July 2015, we collected 198 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. During this testing, 15 samples of the 198 taken (7.5%) showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may test positive.

Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Whenever we detect coliform in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern are present. Additional testing of these samples for other bacteria were negative in all the samples collected in July. Additional samples collected in early August throughout the entire system also have tested negative.

Uncharacteristically warm water temperature may have caused the positive samples. To rectify, we made immediate, successful modification to our treatment procedures and thoroughly flushed the distribution system.

Since this was NOT an emergency, CUSTOMERS DID NOT NEED TO BOIL THEIR WATER OR TAKE ANY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. In accordance with safe drinking water regulations, customers were sent notification of this incident on August 10, 2015.

---

## sodium information

We routinely monitor the drinking water to ensure that it meets the standards set by United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Division of Environmental Protection (DEP). While the EPA does not have a maximum level for sodium in drinking water, the NJDEP has a recommended upper limit (RUL) of 50 parts per million (ppm).

2015 results showed that the Jersey City Water System exceeded the recommended upper limit for sodium. The highest running annual average at the Jersey City Water Treatment Plant was 61 ppm, with a range of monthly average results of 46 ppm to 79 ppm.

The first two months of 2016 test results show that the Jersey City Water System did not exceed the recommended upper limit for sodium with a range of monthly average results of 45 ppm to 47 ppm.

According to the DEP, 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, elevated levels of sodium may be a concern for persons on a sodium restricted diet. If you have any concerns, please consult your health care provider.

For more information, please call 800.575.4433.

# tap water or bottled water?

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.

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.



In keeping with our commitment to the environment, this report was printed on paper containing at least 10% post consumer fiber.

SUEZ

69 DeVoe Place  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority



**[mysuezwater.com](http://mysuezwater.com)**



**[@SUEZwaterNJ](https://twitter.com/SUEZwaterNJ)**



**[facebook.com/SUEZwaterNJ](https://facebook.com/SUEZwaterNJ)**