



2014 Annual

# Water Quality Report

Sunbury System  
PWS ID: NJ0329006



## A Message from the New Jersey American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

New Jersey American Water is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share some very good news about the quality of your drinking water. As you read through our Annual Water Quality Report, you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards. **Better yet, the price you pay for this high-quality water service remains less than a penny per gallon.**

This is an exceptional value when you consider the facilities and technology needed to draw water from the source and treat it, along with miles and miles of pipeline hidden below the ground to bring water to your tap. What's more, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it.

Delivering reliable, high-quality water service also requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. **In 2014 alone, we invested approximately \$245 million in system improvements across the state.**

Because water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and overall quality of life, New Jersey American Water's employees are committed to ensuring that quality water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future. We hope you agree that your water service is worth every penny.

Please take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using the data from water quality testing conducted for your local system between January and December 2014.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely

William M. Varley  
President, New Jersey American Water

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

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

本报告与您的饮用水有关。  
如果您不了解其内容，应请别人为您翻译解说。



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이 보고서에는 귀하께서 사용하고 계시는 식수에 관한 정보가 들어있습니다.  
만약에 이해를 못하시면 누군가에게 번역을 의뢰하십시오.

આ અહેવાલ મોં તમારા પીવાના પાણી વિષે  
અગત્ય ની જાણકારી આપવા માં આવી છે.  
અનેનો અનુવાદ કરો અથવા જેને સમજાવો પડતી  
શોય તેની સાર્થક વાત કરો

## Share This Report:

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not customers. Additional copies of this report are available by contacting customer service at 1-800-272-1325.

## Where Your Water Comes From

New Jersey American Water operates two wells in the Sunbury System. The Mount Laurel-Wenonah aquifer serves as the source of supply.

## About New Jersey American Water

New Jersey American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.5 million people.

## About American Water

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs approximately 6,600 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in more than 40 states and parts of Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

## Water Information Sources

- **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: (609) 292-5550  
[www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)
- **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities:** (973) 648-2350  
Two Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102  
Division of Customer Relations: 1-800-624-0241  
[www.state.nj.us/bpu](http://www.state.nj.us/bpu)
- **US Environmental Protection Agency:** [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
- **American Water Works Association:** [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Public Participation

### How You Can Get Involved

Customers can participate in decisions that may affect the quality of water by:

- Reading the information provided in bill inserts and special mailings
- Contacting the company directly with questions or to discuss issues
- Responding to company requests for participation in focus groups and roundtables
- Attending open houses conducted by the company
- Responding to survey requests

## Our Commitment to Quality

Once again, we proudly present our annual water quality report, which details the results of water quality testing completed from January to December, 2014. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need



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to protect our drinking water sources. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how our water quality results compare to federal and state standards.

We are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

## How to Contact Us

**Thank you...** for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers protect our water sources. Please call our Customer Call Center toll-free at 1-800-272-1325 if you have questions.

**New Jersey American Water**  
131 Woodcrest Road,  
P.O. Box 5079,  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034



**There's a lot more to your water bill than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future. All for less than a penny a gallon.

 **AT LESS THAN A PENNY PER GALLON WATER IS A GREAT VALUE™**

**WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.**  
**FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD, TOO, at [amwater.com](http://amwater.com).**

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## Protecting Your Water Source

### What is S.W.A.P.?

SWAP (Source Water Assessment Program) is a program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to study existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water sources throughout the state. Sources are rated depending upon their contaminant susceptibility.

### Susceptibility Ratings for New Jersey American Water — Sunbury System

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for 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. Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries are available for public water systems at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550



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## Contaminant Categories

DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of the 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 a low rating was assigned.

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.

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Source water protection is a long-term dedication to clean and safe drinking water. It is more cost effective to prevent contamination than to address contamination after the fact. Every member of the community has an important role in source water protection. NJDEP recommends controlling activities and development around drinking water sources whether it is through land acquisition, conservation easements or hazardous waste collection programs. We will continue to keep you informed of SWAP's progress and developments.

### Susceptibility Chart 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, those 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.



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**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 By-product Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

Sunbury	Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection By-Product Precursors		
		H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
	Wells - 1			1			1			1			1			1			1			1			1
	GUDI - 0																								
	Surface Water Intakes - 0																								

### What's in the Source Water Before We Treat It?

In general, the sources of drinking water (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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

#### Substances That May Be Present in Source Water Include:

**Microbiological Contaminants:** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants:** such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water 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 by-products of

**Radioactive Contaminants:** which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### Lead in 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. New Jersey American Water 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, 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>.



## What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in some groundwater. It may pose a health risk when the gas is released from water into air, as occurs while showering, washing dishes and performing other household activities. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks in the foundation. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering through tap water is, in most cases, a small source of radon in indoor air. Inhalation of radon gas has been linked to lung cancer, however the effects of radon ingested in drinking water are not yet clear. If you are concerned about radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level. The EPA is developing regulations to reduce radon in drinking water. Radon in the air is inexpensive to test and easy to correct. For additional information call EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

## Water Quality Statement

The data presented in the Table of Detected Contaminants is the same data collected to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey state monitoring and testing requirements. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were detected well below the levels set by the EPA to protect public health. To assure high quality water, individual water samples are taken each year for chemical, physical and microbiological tests. Testing is conducted on water collected at the source, during treatment, from the distribution system after treatment and, for lead and copper monitoring, from customers' taps. Testing can pinpoint a potential problem so that preventative action may be taken. 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 systems have received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

## How Do I Read the Table of Detected Contaminants?

First, determine which table you should read by finding your town in the Towns Served by this System. Starting with the **Contaminant**, read across from left to right. A "Yes" under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. The column marked **MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, 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. The shaded column marked **MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level**, 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. The column marked **Highest Level Detected** shows the highest test results during the year. The column marked **Range Detected** shows the highest and lowest test results for the year. **Typical Source** shows where this substance usually originates. Compare the detected values with the MCL column. To be in compliance, the Highest Level Detected must be lower than the MCL standard. Those substances not listed in the table were not found in the treated water supply. The footnotes and the definitions below will help you interpret the data presented in the Table of Detected Contaminants.

## Table Definitions

**90th Percentile Value:** Of the samples taken, 90% of the values of the results were below the level indicated in the table.

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

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of 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.

**NA:** not applicable

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

**ND (Not Detected):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present

**ppb (parts per billion):** Corresponds to one part substance in one billion parts of water.

**ppm (parts per million):** Corresponds to one part substance in one million parts of water.

**pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**RUL:** Recommended Upper Limit

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



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## Vulnerable Populations Statement

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 microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at Water Hotline (1-800- 426-4791).

## Sunbury System – PWSID NJ 0329006 – 2014 Table of Detected Contaminants

**Towns Served** Pemberton Twp in part (Sunbury) Regulated contaminants not listed in this table were not found in the treated water supply

Regulated Substances							
Contaminant	Units	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Typical Source
<b>Treatment Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] - Stage 1 <sup>1</sup>	ppb	Yes	NA	80	6.1	6.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] - Stage 1 <sup>1</sup>	ppb	Yes	NA	60	1.2	1.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] - Stage 2	ppb	Yes	NA	80	0.7	0.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine	ppm	Yes	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.3 <sup>2</sup>	ND to 0.70	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Lead and Copper Monitoring Program - Tap water samples were collected from 10 homes in the service area</b>							
Contaminant	Units	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Homes Above Action Level	Typical Source
Copper	ppm	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.083	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	Yes	0	15	ND	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Stage 1 monitoring is no longer required and is superseded by Stage 2 (Stage 2 monitoring was initiated during the 3rd quarter of 2014)

<sup>2</sup> This data represents the highest result of quarterly running annual averages

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring (UCMR3)					
Parameter	Units	Highest Locational Average	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Typical Source
Chlorate	ppb	305	110	88 to 110	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct; and used in production of chloride dioxide
Strontium	ppb	173	176	170 to 176	Naturally-occurring element; historically commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions



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