

# 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Hardyston Township M.U.A.

### Indian Field Water System

(NJDEP PW ID No. 1911005)

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We encourage you to carefully read this report and hope that you find it informative. This report is designed to meet the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for Consumer Confidence Reports and informs 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact either Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer, M.U.A. Administrator at (973) 823-7020 or Michael Vreeland, Authority Engineer at (862) 284-1100. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held at the Hardyston Township Municipal Building, 149 Wheatsworth Road. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2023, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

#### **MONITORING PROGRAM**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. The water supplied from the Indian Fields Water System was subjected to more than 100 water quality tests during 2024. This report is a snapshot of recent water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

#### **SOURCES OF WATER**

The water source is groundwater drawn from wells. The Indian Field water system well field consists of four bedrock groundwater supply wells located in the Wallkill River Watershed. The wells range in depth from 130 feet to 328 feet deep. The wells are completed in and draw groundwater from the Limeport Formation.

After the water comes out of the wells we add: a corrosion inhibitor/hardness sequester, potassium hydroxide to adjust pH and sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. The NJDEP has permitted a diversion of  $\pm 40$

million gallons per year from the well field.

During an emergency water can also be imported from the neighboring Aqua New Jersey, Inc. Wallkill Public Community Water System (NJDEP PWID No. NJ1911001) through an existing emergency interconnection.

#### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 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 1-800-426-4791.

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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present include:

**Microbiological contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 Contaminates**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

**Radioactive Contaminates**, 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, the EPA and NJDEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **Source Water Assessment and Its Availability**

The NJDEP has completed and issued a Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/> or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or [watersupply@dep.nj.gov](mailto:watersupply@dep.nj.gov).

The source water assessment determined the following:

**Susceptibility Rating for Indian Field  
Water System Sources**

Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organics
Medium	High	Medium	Low
Inorganics	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproducts Precursors
Low	Medium	Medium	High

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. Specific information on potential contaminant sources are provided in the source water assessment report.

If you have any questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking water at [watersupply@dep.nj.gov](mailto:watersupply@dep.nj.gov) or 609-292-5550.

**Source Water Protection Tips:**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source;

Pick up after your pets;

Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center;

Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community

and volunteer to help;

Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day?

Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath;

Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month;

Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month;

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month;

Water plants and lawns only when necessary;

Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month;

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation;

Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely;

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES

The tables below present data from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations that are applicable for the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminant 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 (1-800-426-4791).**

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the tables is from testing done in 2023. The EPA or the NJDEP allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. As such, some of our data, though representative, is more than one-year-old.

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic compounds, radionuclides and synthetic organic compounds. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic compounds. Additional information relating to contaminants for which the system monitored but did not detect can be obtained by contacting the Authority Engineer.

**Definitions:** In the following tables you may find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment technology.

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 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 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.

**n/a** - not applicable]]

**Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l)** - 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 Nanograms per Liter** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

**Primary Drinking Water Standards** - enforceable standards established by the EPA designed to protect the public health. Limits on the amount of various substances sometimes found in drinking water are expressed as MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) and/or MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG).

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards** - unlike PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS, these standards are not designed to protect public health. Instead, they are intended to protect “public welfare” by providing guidelines regarding aesthetic aspects of drinking water which do not present a health risk. Currently, there are no MCLs or MCLGs for the secondary drinking water contaminants.

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

### Primary Drinking Water Standards

Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, AL, TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source in Drinking Water
<b>Disinfectant &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (ppm)	4		0.41 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.26	0.62	2024	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)		60	3.99 <sup>(2)</sup>	3.92	4.06	2024	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	80	18.27 <sup>(2)</sup>	8.14	28.4	2024	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<sup>(1)</sup> The reported value is the annual average of 19 samples collected from the distribution system. <sup>(2)</sup> The reported value is the annual average of 2 samples collected from the distribution system.								
<b>Inorganics</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0396			2024	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 (A.L)	0.941 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.0793	1.10	2024 (1 <sup>st</sup> Half)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 (A.L)	0.873 <sup>(4)</sup>	0.101	1.44	2024 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Half)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride(ppm)	4	4	0.106 <sup>1</sup>			2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	15	15 (A.L)	1.5 <sup>(5)</sup>	0.0	0.0	2024 (1 <sup>st</sup> Half)	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
<sup>(3)</sup> The reported value is the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 20 samples collected from distribution system taps. The analytical results of the samples indicate the concentrations did not exceed the action level in the samples. <sup>(4)</sup> The reported value is the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 20 samples collected from distribution system taps. The analytical results of the samples indicate the concentrations exceeded the action level in 1 sample. <sup>(5)</sup> The reported value is the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 20 samples collected from distribution system taps. The analytical results of the samples indicate the concentrations did not exceed the action level in the samples								

### Primary Drinking Water Standards (continued)

Contaminant	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, AL,TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low      High		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Inorganics (continued)								
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	0.332			2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppb)			3.07			2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.45			2024	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Radiological								
Radium-226 & Radium-228 combined (pCi/L)	0	5	1.5			2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Perfluorinated Compounds								
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ppt)	14	14	3.0			2024	NO	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films.
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) (ppt)	13	13	2.5			2024	NO	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films.

## Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Contaminant	Recommended Upper Limit	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Exceeds Recommended Upper Limit YES/NO
			Low	High		
Chloride (ppm)	250	200			2024	NO
Hardness (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	250	398			2024	YES
Sodium (ppm)	50	113.2 <sup>(6)</sup>	106	120	2024	YES
Sulfate (ppm)	250	24.1			2024	NO
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	748			2024	YES
<sup>(6)</sup> The reported value is the annual average of 5 samples collected from the point of entry to the system.						

### HEALTH EFFECTS OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

**Barium** - Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

**Chlorine** - Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

**Combined Radium** – Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Copper** - Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Fluoride** - Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children’s teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before

they erupt from the gums.

**Haloacetic Acids** – Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Hardness (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>)**– A characteristic of water caused mainly by the salts of calcium and magnesium, such as bicarbonate, carbonate, sulfate, chloride and nitrate. Consuming water with significant hardness in excess can lead to cardiovascular complications, diabetes, reproductive failure, neural diseases, and renal dysfunction.

**Lead** - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Additional Information For 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 HTMUA 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, the HTMUA is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line. A service line inventory has been prepared and available at <https://hardyston.com/resources/htmua-lead-line-inventory-reports/>.

**Mercury** -Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.

**Nitrate** - Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Additional Information For 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 for advice from your health care provider.

#### **Perfluorinated Compounds (PFOA/PFOS) –**

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are fluorinated organic chemicals referred to as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOS and PFOA have been extensively produced and studied in the United States. They have been used in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes.

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes). While people are

exposed to PFOS and PFOA largely through food, food packaging, consumer products, and house dust, the exposure through drinking water has become an increasing concern due to the tendency of PFASs to accumulate in groundwater.

**Sodium** - For healthy individuals, sodium intake from water is not a serious contaminate, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

**Total Trihalomethanes** - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

#### **Special Considerations Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers & Others -**

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a 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 do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these 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 cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

#### **STEP YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD AND COPPER IN DRINKING WATER**

Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, "flush" your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead and copper it may contain.

Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead and copper. Do not boil water to remove lead or copper. Boiling water will not reduce lead or copper.

After you have taken the precautions above, have your water tested by a state certified laboratory.

The actions recommended above will probably be effective in reducing lead and copper levels because most of the lead and copper in household water comes from the plumbing in your house, not from the water supply.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

As you can see by the water quality tables, we have learned through our monitoring and testing that contaminants have been detected.

On March 24, 2021, we collected one (1) untreated source sample from Well 3 and the sample tested positive for E. Coli. You were notified of the E. Coli in Well 3. Well 3 was removed from service and we have been using the other existing wells until additional corrective actions have been completed.

Water systems that are found to have source contamination are required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the NJDEP within 30 days and complete approved corrective actions within 120 days. Although Corrective Action Plans have been submitted to the NJDEP, we failed to complete corrective actions by the required deadline.

## **What is being done?**

We have implemented a short-term plan to address the immediate issue while we pursue the long-term solution.

Although we did not complete corrective actions by the required deadline, we did conduct a NJDEP approved Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water evaluation. We expect to develop additional corrective actions with the NJDEP this year.

We at the Hardyston Township M.U.A. work around the clock to provide quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources.

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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water.