

December 2011

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Town of Hammonton Water Department has experienced levels
Of Gross Alpha and Radium above Drinking Water Standards**

The Town of Hammonton (the Town) is required to notify the consumers of its public water system when readings exceed the safe drinking water limits. In May 2011, the first notice of this kind was issued to the Town's residents. Please be advised that readings from Wells #5 & #7 for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2011 have exceeded the running annual average (RAA) for Gross Alpha (GA) and Combined Radium 226 and 228 (Ra 226 and 228). As a reminder, the EPA has established MCLs for Gross Alpha and Combined Radium 226 and 228 of 15 picocuries per liter and 5 picocuries per liter, respectively.

The 3rd quarter 2011 reading for Well #5 taken on 7/27/11 was 19.11 pCi/L and 4.49* pCi/L Ra
The 4th quarter 2011 reading for Well #5** taken on 12/28/11 was 22.37 pCi/L and 6.46 pCi/L Ra

**Although this reading is within the limits of the MCL, the running average for combined Ra is above the limit.*

***Well #5 was not operative during this quarter except for 2 hours due to a major fire whereby it pumped approximately 150,000 gals. Other times it ran was simply to take the mandated sample for the quarter.*

In addition to mailing this notice to the consumers of the Hammonton Water system, EPA obligates the Town to assure that this information is presented to 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). To facilitate this objective, this notice will be posted at Town Hall, published in the official newspaper of the Town, on the Town's website and its local access station. Additionally, copies of this notice will be available at Town Hall.

Current Status:

As mentioned in the previous Notices, the Town continues to test all of its wells for the presence of radium. The reason for this Notice is that the running annual average for both parameters sampled at Wells #5 & #7 Treatment Plant continues to exceed the MCL.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Gross alpha and the radium are naturally occurring vs. a man-made contaminant. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

The EPA sets drinking water standards and has determined that Radium poses health concern at certain levels of exposure. The EPA has estimated that the additional lifetime risk associated with drinking water that contains the MCL level for Radium is about one (1) in ten thousand (10,000). This means that if ten thousand (10,000) people were to consume two (2) liters of this water per day for 70 years, we would expect to see one (1) additional concern in the ten thousand (10,000) people exposed.

It is important to note that Hammonton's values hover around the conservative threshold established by EPA.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. You may also contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Additional information regarding Radium in Southern New Jersey can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/download/radwater.pdf>.

What happened? What is being done?

The Town has executed an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with NJDEP requiring treatment at the Wells #5 & #7 Treatment Plant. The ACO establishes a schedule for planning, design, permitting, construction and operation of the remediation system. By the Order, the Town must submit design plans for the radium removal process to NJDEP by January 1, 2012. This deadline was achieved and the design is currently under the review of the NJDEP. In the interim, the Town will limit, to the extent possible, the use of Wells #5 & #7. In fact, with the exception of operating Well #5 in October for the Skinner fire, Wells #5 and #7 have been off-line since mid September. The Town recently adopted a revised Water Conservation Ordinance that the Town will strictly enforce especially while the wells are being remediated. For more information, please contact the Public Utilities Department at (609) 567-4331. This notice is being sent to you by the Hammonton Public Utilities Department.

State Water System ID# NJ0113001

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