**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**[System] Fails to Meet Established Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels**

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water requirement, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we [did/are doing] to correct this situation.

**IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS SPOKEN BY A POPULATION OF 10% OR MORE WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY, BASED ON US CENSUS DATA, REPEAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS, AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ENGLISH AND THE APPLICABLE LANGUAGE(S):** Contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] [**OPTION:** or [email address]] for questions or to obtain a translated copy of this public notice.

**OPTION for community water systems** (If only one portion of the service area is impacted by this violation, and you were granted permission from the NJDEP to limit the distribution of the public notice, it is highly recommended to include a map of the afflicted area)**:** Only a portion of our service area, specifically, the [Name of Service Area impacted by this violation] Service Area, was affected by this violation. If you are receiving this notice, you are within the impacted area. Please see find a map illustrating the affected area [attached/enclosed/below]. For more information, please contact us at the contact information below.

Our water system [has corrosion control treatment installed and/or receives corrosion control treated water] to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. The corrosion control treatment was deemed optimized; and therefore, the New Jersey department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established optimal Water Quality Parameters (WQP) values, which are values the corrosion control treatment functions most effectively. We monitor for WQP values per federal regulations.

During the [6-month monitoring period, i.e., January 1, YEAR to June 30, YEAR or July 1, YEAR to December 31, YEAR] monitoring period, our WQP sample results did not meet the optimal WQP values set by the NJDEP for [# of days with excursions] days, and the water system cannot be below the minimum level(s) or outside the range(s) set by the NJDEP for more than nine (9) days.

**Ongoing only:** You were previously notified of this violation in public notice(s) issued on [date(s)]. Per the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide you with an updated public notice every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the optimal WQP values.

**If water system has an outstanding lead and/or copper action level exceedance:** In addition to monitoring optimal WQP values, our water system routinely monitors for lead and copper. The most recent monitoring conducted [latest lead and copper monitoring period, i.e., January 1, YEAR to June 30, YEAR; July 1, YEAR to December 31, YEAR; or June 1, YEAR to September 30, YEAR] demonstrated we are out of compliance with the Federal action level(s) for [lead and/or copper]. **For lead action level exceedances:** You were previously notified of the lead action level exceedance on [date public education was distributed]. Further information regarding the exceedance and the actions we are taking to return to compliance can be viewed at [website or conspicuous location where the exceedance public education is located].

**If water system does not have an outstanding lead and/or copper action level exceedance:** In addition to monitoring optimal WQP values, our water system routinely monitors for lead and copper. The most recent monitoring conducted [latest lead and copper monitoring period, i.e., January 1, YEAR to June 30, YEAR; July 1, YEAR to December 31, YEAR; or June 1, YEAR to September 30, YEAR] demonstrated we are in compliance with the Federal action levels for lead and copper. If there is a lead action level exceedance, you will be notified accordingly.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. **If water system does not have an outstanding lead and/or copper action level exceedance:** This violation does not mean there is confirmed lead and/or copper in your drinking water. However, since corrosion control treatment is used to protect residents from lead and copper potentially leaching from internal pipes and solder, it is important to be aware of the health effects of lead and copper and steps you may take to reduce your exposure.

* 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.
* Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount 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 physician.

*If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about your drinking water.*

Typically, lead and/or copper enters drinking water by leaching from pipes and plumbing components in [homes and/or building(s)]. We [have treatment installed and/or receive treated water] to reduce the wearing away of lead and/or copper leaching from pipes and plumbing components into the water and optimal WQP values set to ensure effectiveness of the treatment. Failure to meet the set values requires us to evaluate the currently installed treatment and operation thereof and take actions necessary to meet the optimal WQP values.

**What should I do?**

**If water system has an outstanding lead and/or copper action level exceedance:** Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead and/or copper if there are confirmed or suspected lead-containing materials, such as a lead service line and/or interior lead plumbing or lead solder, in your home or building:

* Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free” as well as lead service lines. Contact [water system] at the phone number or email below to learn more about replacing the lead service line on your property. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
* Run the cold water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if it has not been used for more than six (6) hours.
* Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap; lead can dissolve more quickly into hot water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
* Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
* Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.
* Use alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead and/or copper or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.
* Test your water. Call [us at the phone number below or provide information on NJDEP’s certified labs] to find out how to get your water tested for lead and/or copper.
* Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

*For additional steps you may take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, see* [*https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html*](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html)*.*

**If water system does not have an outstanding lead and/or copper action level exceedance**: **You do not need to use an alternate water supply (e.g., bottled water).** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Additionally, if you would like to reduce your potential exposure to lead and/or copper in drinking water, you may choose to take the following steps:

* Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn’t been used for several hours.
* Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
* Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
* Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

*For additional steps you may take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, see* [*https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html*](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html)*.*

**What is being done?**

[Describe corrective action]. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame]. **OR** The problem was resolved [on date/in month and year]. **OPTION**: Updates will be provided [on our website every three months at [website link] **OR** [describe public location]].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] **OPTION:** or [email address].

*\*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.\**

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. State Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_.