

Radiological MCLs Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Winslow Twp Utilities Has Levels of Radium Activity Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard and is required to notify its customers. Well 8 exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for combined Radium 226 and 228 based on a sample collected during the 4th quarter of 2102. The average level of radium 226 and 228 over the last four quarters is 6.5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established MCLs for Gross Alpha and Combined Radium 226 and 228 of 15 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and 5 (pCi/L) respectively. Quarterly samples for Gross Alpha remain below the applicable level.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The following quarterly results for combined radium 226/228 activity from Well 8 were used for this determination:

<u>Reporting Period</u>	<u>Quarterly Value (pCi/L)</u>	<u>Running Annual Average (pCi/L)</u>
1 st quarter 2012	5.74	
2 nd quarter 2012	4.66	
3 rd quarter 2012	6.33	
4 th quarter 2012	11.22	6.5

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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 drinking this water.
- 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 does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, [certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. 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 has estimated that the additional lifetime risk associated with drinking water that contains the MCL level for Gross Alpha is about (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 (1) additional concern in the ten thousand (10,000) people exposed.

Corrective Action:

The Township of Winslow's ("Township") Well 8 was remediated for elevated Combined Radium 226-228 above the MCL in 2008 with a radium removal system consisting of a resin based media which has been in operation for 4 years. Due to treatment performance issues and the inefficiency of the resin based media, the Township publically advertised to receive bids on October 23, 2012 to replace the media with a more efficient mineral based media, with replacement of the media to occur in December 2012.

- The Township ceased using Well 8 in October 2012, prior to incurring the MCL violation.
- A sample was collected from Well 8 in November 2012. The well was run overboard and not into the Township's water distribution system.
- Based on the test results received during December 2012, the Township notified the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- The Township obtained a temporary approval from the NJDEP during July 2012 to replace the current resin based media with the mineral based media.
- The Township awarded the media replacement contract and issued a Notice to Proceed to the contractor on December 5, 2012.
- Replacement of the media is scheduled to occur during February 2013.
- The Township will be performing increased weekly radium monitoring (for one month) upon reactivating the well and radium treatment to ensure efficiency of the treatment unit, and will resume quarterly monitoring thereafter.
- Upon completion of the weekly samples, the Township intends to submit a permit application to the NJDEP for review and approval of the permanent use of the new treatment media.

For more information, please contact Winslow Township Utilities at (609)567-0700

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 Winslow Township Utilities. State Water System ID #: 0436007

Date distributed: _____.