

*Annual*  
**WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT**

*Reporting Year 2012*



*Presented By* \_\_\_\_\_  
City of East Orange

PWS ID#: NJ0705001

## There When You Need Us

The East Orange Water Commission (EOWC) is proud to present its annual Water Quality Report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2012. High-quality drinking water is the only permissible water the East Orange Water Commission continuously produces and delivers to its customers every year. Over the years, the Board of Water Commissioners, in conjunction with the various divisions within the Commission, have been dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. This year is no different.

The EOWC is proud to continuously deliver some of the best-quality drinking water to you, our customers. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, the EOWC will remain vigilant in meeting the goals of safe drinking water, source water protection, water conservation, and community education. The EOWC will continue to serve the needs of all our water users, with the highest levels of integrity.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or inquiries, please contact us at (973) 266-8869. We are always available to assist you in any way we can.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the East Orange Water Commission's Customer Service Department, Monday through Friday, at (973) 266-8869 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, or via email at [water@eastorange-nj.gov](mailto:water@eastorange-nj.gov) and visit us online at [www.eowater.com](http://www.eowater.com).

## Community Participation

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Water Commissioners meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month at 99 South Grove Street, East Orange, NJ, at 5:00 p.m.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial 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 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 Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

This year the City of East Orange was supplied with an average of 8 million gallons of water each day for domestic consumption, fire protection, ground irrigation, and other water supply needs. The City draws groundwater from four wellfields, containing 18 wells, in the 2,400-acre East Orange Water Reserve located in Millburn, Livingston, and Florham Park. In addition, the City purchases surface water from the City of Newark to meet consumer demand.

## Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/dep/swap/swapdata2.pl?psid=0705001> or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact the East Orange Water Commission's Customer Service Department at (973) 266-8869 to obtain information regarding your water system's Source Water Assessment.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a consumer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. Ratings reflect the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination.

Results for the EOWC's 18 wells:

The following categories were rated High potential for contamination at a number of wells: nutrients, volatile organic compounds, inorganics, radon, and disinfection by-product precursors.

The following categories were rated Medium potential for contamination at a number of wells: pathogens, nutrients, pesticides, inorganics, radionuclides, and disinfection by-product precursors.

The following categories were rated Low potential for contamination at a number of wells: nutrients, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds.

Surface water purchased from the City of Newark was rated High potential for contamination in the following categories: pathogens, inorganics and disinfection by-product precursors.

Surface water purchased from the City of Newark was rated Low potential for contamination in the following categories: nutrients, pesticides, volatile organic compounds, radionuclides, and radon.



You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

### NEVER:

- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a waste basket.

### ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products including nonbiodegradable wipes.

# Fact *or* Fiction

## How is My Water Treated?

To ensure the quality of our water, it is treated with calcium hypochlorite (chlorine) as a disinfectant. No additional treatment is currently required to produce excellent-quality drinking water.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Water treatment began as a way to remove disease-causing agents. *(Fiction: It was only in the 1950s that scientists began to suspect that water might carry diseases. Although earlier treatment of water could make the water safer, it was mainly done merely to improve the taste, smell, or appearance of the water.)*

About half of the world's water supply is available for drinking. *(Fiction: If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.)*

Due to its unique nature, water boils at the same temperature anywhere on the planet. *(Fiction: At sea level, water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, but on top of Mt. Everest, water boils at 154 degrees.)*

Water regulates the temperature of the Earth. *(Fact: As in the human body, the water in our oceans, lakes, and streams plays a major role in regulating planetary temperatures.)*

The Mississippi River is longer than the Amazon River. *(Fiction: At 3,902 miles the Mississippi River is not as long as the Amazon River, which flows for 4,000 miles.)*

Forty trillion gallons of water a day are carried in the atmosphere across the United States. *(Fact: Forty percent of the atmosphere's moisture content falls as precipitation each day.)*

## Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken numerous water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	City of East Orange		City of Newark		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Arsenic (ppb)	2012	5	0	NA	NA	<3	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2009	2	2	0.05	NA	0.0063 <sup>2</sup>	NA <sup>2</sup>	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2012	[4]	[4]	0.8 (AA) <sup>3</sup>	0.7–0.8	0.479 (AA)	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2009	100	100	8	NA	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–Stage 1 DDBP <sup>4</sup> (ppb)	2012	60	NA	9 (RAA)	ND	51.2 (RAA)	36–40.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–Stage 2 DDBP (ppb)	2012	60	NA	NA (LRAA) <sup>5</sup>	ND–41	NA (LRAA) <sup>5</sup>	6–55	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Mercury [inorganic] (ppb)	2012	2	2	NA	NA	<2	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppb)	2009	100	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	No	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	2012	10	10	1.28	NA	<1	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 DDBP <sup>4</sup> (ppb)	2012	80	NA	17 (RAA)	6.01–7.39	71.4 (RAA)	45.9–51.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 DDBP (ppb)	2012	80	NA	NA (LRAA) <sup>5</sup>	5.33–70	NA (LRAA) <sup>5</sup>	28.2–64.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2012	1	0	1.08 <sup>6</sup> (RAA)	0.8–1.5	NA	NA	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	2012	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	4%	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>7</sup> (NTU)	2012	TT=< 1 NTU	NA	NA	NA	0.43	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2012	TT=95% of samples < 0.3 NTU	NA	NA	NA	96.5	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppb)	2008	30	0	3.3	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2012	1.3	1.3	0.2	0/31	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2012	15	0	2.3	0/31	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> Under a waiver granted on December 30, 1998, by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our system does not have to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals/pesticides because several years of testing have indicated that these substances do not occur in our source water. The SDWA regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals and asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Sampled in 2012.

<sup>3</sup> AA = Annual average.

<sup>4</sup> Stage 1 monitoring is no longer required after the first quarter of 2012; this will be superseded by Stage 2 monitoring. (RAA = Running Annual Average.)

<sup>5</sup> The LRAA cannot be calculated under Stage 2 monitoring until four consecutive quarters of monitoring data are available (Stage 2 monitoring was initiated in the second quarter of 2012).

<sup>6</sup> A violation of the MCL occurs when the concentration is greater than 1.49 ppb.

<sup>7</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95 percent or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU (no sample may exceed 1 NTU).

## Definitions

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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 contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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