

SUEZ

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CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

SUEZ Water New Jersey - Vernon Valley Water System

PWSID # NJ1922026

2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY Report - Issued May 2020

INTRODUCTION

Providing clean, safe drinking water to you is our top priority. That's why we're pleased to present your annual Consumer Confidence Report [CCR] that details the results of the most recent water quality tests performed on your drinking water through the end of 2019. As a privately owned utility, SUEZ does not hold water board or city/council meetings for public discussion on decisions that affect drinking water quality. If at any time you have questions about your water quality or delivery, please call us at **888.770.6030**. We want you to be informed about your water supply. **This system is reporting under PWSID # NJ1922026.**

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

In Vernon Valley, customers receive their water from two ground water wells. The wells are approximately 118 and 125 feet deep. Water from the well is treated to meet safe drinking water standards. The Vernon Valley System has two 250,000 gallon elevated storage tanks.

ABOUT THE TREATMENT PROCESS

At SUEZ, our goal is to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all federal and state standards. The Vernon Valley wells are treated with chlorine for disinfection. The water from the wells is treated with a corrosion inhibitor to reduce the possibility of lead and copper dissolving into the water from household plumbing. To further ensure the safety of your water, we monitor it before, during and after the treatment process. SUEZ is committed to providing you with top quality water.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, all states were required to establish a Source Water Assessment Program [SWAP]. New Jersey's SWAP Plan incorporates the following four fundamental steps:

1. Determine the source water assessment area of each ground and surface water source of public drinking water.
2. Inventory the potential contamination sources within the source water assessment area.
3. Determine the public water system source's susceptibility to regulated contaminants. It is important to note, if a drinking water source's susceptibility is high, it does not necessarily mean the drinking water is contaminated. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination.
4. Incorporate public education and participation.

In 2004, source water assessment reports were completed by NJDEP for all Community and Noncommunity Water Systems in New Jersey. The source water assessment reports and supporting documentation are available at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap/index.html> or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at **609.292.5550**.

TAP WATER OR BOTTLED 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 that 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 **800.426.4791**.

The sources of drinking water (for both tap 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 in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. So, what's the bottom line? If bottled and tap water meet the federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water is substantially less expensive than bottled water.

MONITORING YOUR WATER

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to **USEPA** regulations. The following tables in this report show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

HEALTH EFFECTS

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. SUEZ 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 and cooking. However, for those served by a lead service line, flushing times may vary based on the length of the service line and plumbing configuration in your home. If your home is set back further from the street a longer flushing time may be needed. To conserve water, other household usage activities such as showering, washing clothes, and running the dishwasher are effective methods of flushing out water from a service line. To determine if you have a lead service line, contact us at **1.800.422.5987**. 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 at **800.426.4791** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

To learn more about lead, please visit <http://www.mysuezwater.com> or <http://www.epa.gov/lead>

Special Considerations for Children, Nursing Mothers, Pregnant Women and Others

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 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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* **800.426.4791**.

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level [MCL]: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

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.

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

Treatment Technique [TT]: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Not Analyzed or Not Applicable [NA]: Analysis of the constituent is not required.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit [NTU]: A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per million [ppm]: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid.

Parts per billion [ppb]: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid.

Parts per trillion or ng/L [ppt]: Equivalent of one grain of sand in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

Picocuries per liter [pCi/L]: Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

< This means "less than."

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level [MRDL]: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of 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 disinfectant to control microbial contamination.

Milligrams per liter [mg/L]: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid [Parts per million - ppm]

Running Annual Average [RAA]: TTHMs and HAA5 are reported by the annual average of the four quarterly samples for the year.

ND: Not detectable.

CU: Color unit.

S.U.: Standard unit.

2019 WATER QUALITY RESULTS - TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Detected [Range of Results]	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit [MCL, TT or AL]	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>Primary Standards - directly related to the safety of drinking water.</i>						
Inorganic Contaminants (2018 Results)						
Barium	No	Highest level detected ¹ = 0.022	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium [Total]	No	Highest level detected = 6.21	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	No	Highest level detected = 3.48	ppb	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate and Nitrite (2019)	No	Highest level detected = 1.06	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer usage; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Organic Disinfection By-Products – Stage 2						
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]	No	Range of results = 2.87 – 13.03 LRAA ² = 13.03	ppb	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids]	No	Range of results = ND – 1.9 LRAA = 1.9	ppb	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Disinfectant Residual						
Chlorine	No	Highest level detected = 1.54 Range of results = 0.24 – 1.54	ppm	4	4	Water additive to control microbes
Lead and Copper						
Copper						
1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019 ³	No	90th percentile = 0.70 Range = ND – 2.23 # samples above Action Level = 2	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
7/1/2019 – 12/31/2019 ⁴	No	90th percentile = 1.05 Range = 0.05 – 1.53 # samples above Action Level = 2				
Lead						
1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019 ⁵	No	90th percentile = 2.9 Range = ND - 13 # samples above Action Level = 0	ppb	0	AL = 15	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits
7/1/2019 – 12/31/2019 ⁶	No	90th percentile = 2.95 Range = ND – 31.9 # samples above Action Level = 1				
Lead and Copper – Water Quality Parameters						
Treatment Plant						
Parameter	Minimum Level Detected	Maximum Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	Required Minimum Level	Number of Excursions
pH	7.31	7.87	s.u.	NA	NA	NA
Alkalinity [as CaCO ₃]	204	296	ppm	NA	NA	NA
Orthophosphate [as Total P]	ND	0.04	ppm	NA	NA	NA
Distribution System						
Parameter	Minimum Level Detected	Maximum Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	Required Minimum Level	Number of Excursions
pH	7.21	7.56	s.u.	NA	NA	NA
Alkalinity [as CaCO ₃]	221	285	ppm	NA	NA	NA
Orthophosphate [as Total P]	ND	0.04	ppm	NA	NA	NA

Secondary Standards - water quality parameters related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water.

Parameter	RUL Exceeded Yes/No	Highest Level Detected [Range of Results]	Unit Measure	MCLG	RUL	Likely Source
Chloride	No	Highest level detected = 177 Range of results = 88 - 177	ppm	NA	250	Naturally occurring element
Color	No	Highest level detected = 3	CU	NA	10	Naturally occurring organic matter
Hardness [as CaCO ₃] ⁷	Yes	Highest level detected = 320 Range of results = 270 - 320	ppm	NA	250	Naturally occurring element
pH	No	Highest level detected = 7.51	s.u.	NA	6.5 – 8.5	Natural property of water
Sodium ⁸ (2019)	Yes	Highest level detected = 110 Range of results = 45 - 110	ppm	NA	50	Naturally occurring element
Sulfate	No	Highest level detected = 19.5 Range of results = 12.3 – 19.5	ppm	NA	250	Naturally occurring element
Total Dissolved Solids ⁷	Yes	Highest level detected = 548 Range of results = 368 - 548	ppm	NA	500	Minerals and salts dissolved in the water
Zinc	No	Highest level detected = 0.01	ppm	NA	5	Naturally occurring element

Unregulated Substances - voluntary monitoring

Parameter	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Detected [Range of Results]	Unit Measure	MCLG	Likely Source
Substance					
PFOA	No	Highest level detected = 5.8 Range of results = 4.2 – 5.8	ppt	NA	Used in manufacturer of fluoropolymers, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases, lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
PFOS	No	Highest level detected = 3 Range of results = ND - 3	ppt	NA	Used in firefighting foam, circuit board etching, cleaners, floor polish, and pesticides
PFHxA	No	Highest level detected = 9.4 Range of results = 6.9 – 9.4	ppt	NA	Used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant

PFBS	No	Highest level detected = 6.7 Range of results = 5 – 6.7	ppt	NA	Used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
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NOTES:

- Highest Level Detected is based upon the highest single sample.
- LRAA=the highest locational running annual average results.
- The Copper level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 49 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 49 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 0.70 ppm value with the highest being 2.23 ppm. Two sites exceeded the action level for copper.
- The Copper level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 41 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 41 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 1.05 ppm value with the highest being 1.52 ppm. Two sites exceeded the action level for copper.
- The Lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 49 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 49 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 2.9 ppb with the highest value being 13 ppb. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- The Lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 41 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 41 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was 2.95 ppb with the highest value being 31.9 ppb. One site exceeded the action level for lead.
- Note on exceedences: Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.
- Health Note for Sodium: Water containing more than 20 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking water by people on diets that severely restrict sodium. Water containing more than 270 ppm of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on diets that moderately restrict sodium.

SUEZ was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit [RUL] for sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the RUL may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet. Please see additional sodium information below.

WAIVER INFORMATION

The Safe Drinking Water Act [SDWA] regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals [VOCs] and synthetic organic chemicals [SOCs]. Our system received monitoring waivers for SOCs because we are not vulnerable to this type of contamination.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please pass this information along to those who speak Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Gujarti or Arabic:

- Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
- આ અહેવાલ મહત્વની માહિતી ધરાવે છે. આ અહેવાલની અનુવાદ લેવા અથવા તેને સમજાવવા અથવા તેને સમજાવવાની કોઈ સહાયતાની જરૂર નથી.
- المعلومات في هذا التقرير تحتوي على معلومات مهمة عن مياه الشرب التي تشربها. من فضلك اذا لم تفهم هذه المعلومات اطلب من مترجمها لك.

SODIUM AND YOUR DRINKING WATER

SUEZ routinely monitors its drinking water to ensure that it meets the standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [DEP]. While the EPA does not have a maximum level for sodium in drinking water, the NJDEP has a recommended upper limit [RUL] of 50 parts per million [ppm].

2019 test results show that SUEZ exceeded the recommended upper limit for sodium. The highest result at the Vernon Valley Water System was 110 ppm, with a range of results of 45 ppm to 110 ppm.

According to the DEP, for healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, elevated levels of sodium may be a concern for persons on a sodium-restricted diet. If you have any concerns, please consult your health care provider.

Road salt run-off affecting our source water quality is the leading cause of elevated sodium levels in the drinking water supply. We are meeting with communities within our source water area to discuss options for minimizing use of and/or alternatives to road salt.

For more information, please call **888.770.6030**.

State Water System ID#: NJ1922026 [Vernon Valley System]