

BOROUGH OF SOUTH RIVER

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DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

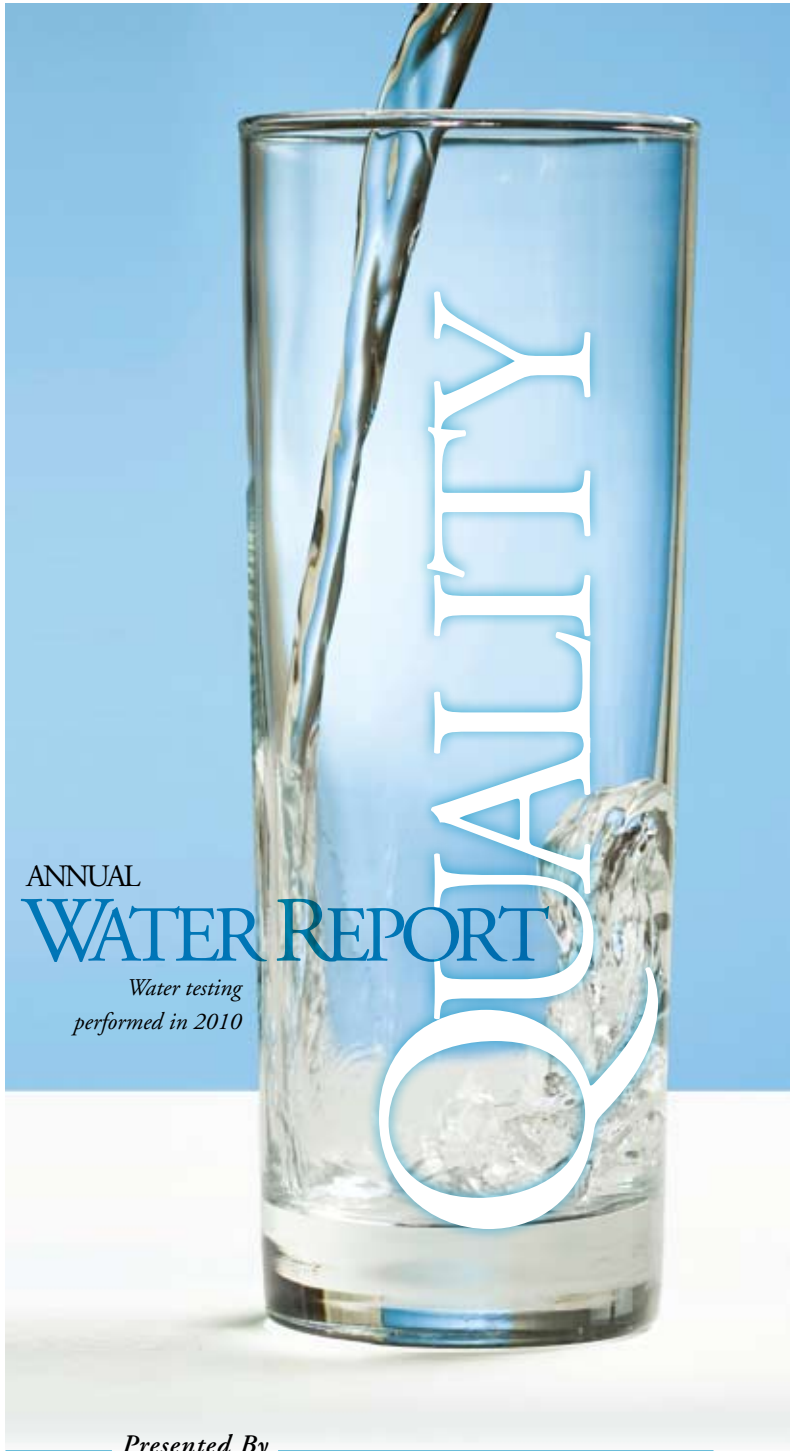
Date: June 2011
From: South River Water Utility
To: All Drinking Water Consumers

The South River Water Utility announced the release of the annual Water Quality Report, detailing specific issues pertaining to the quality of drinking water that it provides to its consumers. As part of a recent US Environmental Protection Agency mandate, water utilities across the Country will now begin producing annual reports that are designed to educate and inform consumers.

“The Borough’s dedicated employees are constantly working to insure South River’s water is safe,” says Mayor, Raymond T. Eppinger. “During the past several years, the Borough has completed major projects to the Water Treatment Plant System. These projects included; upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant Filtering System, the rehabilitation of Wells 3 and 5, the automation of the treatment plant and booster station, improvements to the groundwater storage tank and elevated tank and enhanced communications system. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.”

Free copies of this water quality report are now available and can be picked up at the following locations, or by calling the Department of Public Works at 732-257-9051.

***Borough Clerk’s Office – 48 Washington Street
South River Middle School
South River High School
South River Police Department
Human Resource Building-55 Reid Street***



ANNUAL
WATER REPORT
*Water testing
performed in 2010*

Presented By
South River Water Treatment

PWS ID#: 1223001

Quality First Quality

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2010. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with quality drinking water.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

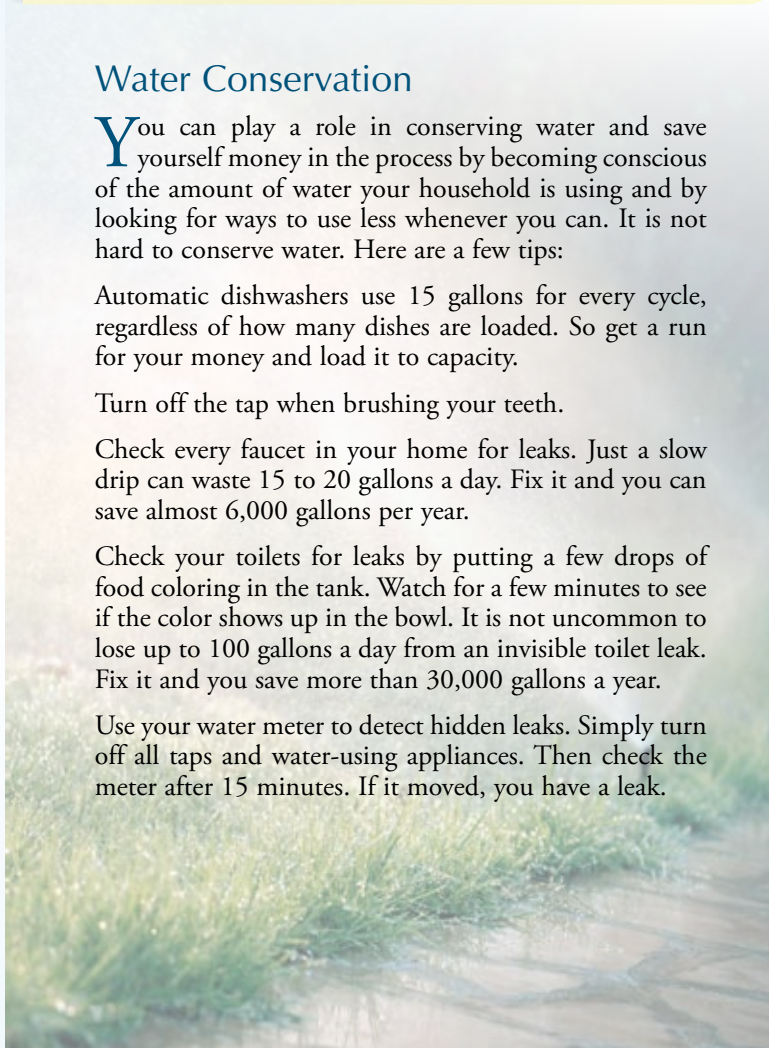
Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued a Source Water Assessment Report of our drinking water sources, which is available at www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting the NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources (PCSs) and assign a relative rating of high, moderate, or low for each source. The PCSs include pathogens; nutrients; pesticides; volatile organic compounds; inorganics; radionuclides; radon; and disinfection by-product precursors.

The relative susceptibility rating of the water source for the Borough of South River was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment reported a susceptibility rating from low to high for our water source. This susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality; rather, it signifies the system's potential to become contaminated in the assessment area.

If you have any questions about these findings, please contact us during the regular business hours.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Please call the Municipal Building at (732) 257-1999 for dates of the public meetings. The meetings are held at the Criminal Justice Building, 61 Main Street, South River, New Jersey.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The South River Water Utility draws its water from two sources: the Farrington Sands Aquifer and the East Brunswick Water Utility. The Farrington Sands Aquifer is a deep-water source, which South River draws from three wells. East Brunswick supplies about half of our water supply. They receive their water from the Round Valley Spruce Run Reservoir System. Also, East Brunswick purchases water from the Middlesex Water Company, which utilizes surface water sources. During 2010, the utility distributed more than 420,564 million gallons of water.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Robert Baker, Water Treatment Plant Operator, at (732) 254-5233.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, toothbrush holders, and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including man). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help to eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the New Jersey Department of Health's Web site (www.state.nj.us) provides complete and current information on water issues in New Jersey, including valuable information about our watershed.

Lead and Drinking Water

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. The Borough of South River 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 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.

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.



Why do I get this report each year?

Community water system operators are required by federal law to provide their customers with an annual water quality report. The report helps people make informed choices about the water they drink. It lets people know what contaminants, if any, are in their drinking water and how these contaminants may affect their health. It also gives the system operators a chance to tell customers what it takes to deliver safe drinking water.

Why does my water sometimes look “milky”?

The “milky” look is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water. The water in the pipes coming into your home or business is under pressure, so gasses (the air) are dissolved and trapped in the pressurized water as it flows into your glass. As the air bubbles rise in the glass, they break free at the surface, thus clearing up the water. Although the milky appearance might be disconcerting, the air bubbles won’t affect the quality or taste of the water.

How can I keep my pet’s water bowl germ free?

Veterinarians generally recommend that water bowls be washed daily with warm, soapy water—normally when you change the water. Scour the corners, nooks, and crannies of the water dish using a small scrub brush. In addition, once a week put water bowls into the dishwasher to sanitize them with hot water. In most situations, disinfectants like bleach are not needed; warm, soapy water is all you need to keep your pet’s water clean and safe.

How much water is used during a typical shower?

The Federal Energy Policy Act set a nationwide regulation that limits showerheads to a maximum flow of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). Showerheads made before 1980 are rated at 5 GPM. Since the average shower is estimated to last 8.2 minutes, the old showerheads use 41 gallons of water while the newer, low-flow showerheads use only about 21 gallons.

Is it okay to use hot water from the tap for cooking and drinking?

No, always use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from household plumbing and water heaters. These substances can dissolve into hot water faster than they do into cold water, especially when the faucet has not been used for an extended period of time.

How many contaminants are regulated in drinking water?

The U.S. EPA regulates over 80 contaminants in drinking water. Some states may choose to regulate additional contaminants or to set stricter standards, but all states must have standards at least as stringent as the U.S. EPA’s.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of 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 ¹									
				Borough of South River		East Brunswick Township			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2010	60	NA	36.000	10.400–47.400	37.000	24.030–50.300	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2010	10	10	0.375	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2010	80	NA	34.000	17.730–51.830	46.000	31.380–58.240	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
				Borough of South River		East Brunswick Township			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.422	0/30	0.394	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	4.3	0/30	7	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES (BOROUGH OF SOUTH RIVER)							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	RUL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2010	300	NA	100	ND–300	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

¹ 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.



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.

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).

RUL (Recommended Upper

Limit): The highest level of a contaminant recommended in drinking water. RULs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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