MERCER COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Analysis conducted during 2021 Report Year: 2022 Public Water System ID# NJ1106002

2021 MERCER COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (MCCC) CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where does my water come from?
The supply comes from groundwater wells (3) located in the Brunswick Aquifer. The system has a storage capacity of 100,000 gallons for fire protection and 100,000 gallons for drinking water. The distribution system consists of 1/2 mile of water main, a booster pump station and six (6) service connections. Any questions regarding Water quality or operations should be directed to your shift commander at which time they will contact the appropriate party.

Public Participation - How can I get involved?
Contact your shift supervisor if you have any interest in getting involved with the handling of the drinking water at your facility. If you would like to get involved and participate in decisions that may affect the water you drink, please contact the Warden directly. We currently have no regularly scheduled meetings to attend, but suggestions and other input are always welcome!

Important Information about 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. Mercer County Correctional Center 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Important Information about PFOS
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood. https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

Important Information about Total Coliform

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

Important Information about Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Important Information about 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 recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Waiver Information

Our water system has received a waiver indicating that we do not need to sample for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) or Asbestos in our source water and distribution system. These waivers were granted by the NJDEP since we are located in an area of extremely low risk for these compounds to exist in the water.

Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Violations

Our system has since completed the CCTR Plan and submitted it to the NJDEP.

For more information please contact:

James Walters, MCCC Public Water System Operator

VHB

Phone: 908-812-6311

Source Water Assessment Program

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.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html, or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

The Source Water Assessment performed on our three (3) wells determined the following:

Susceptibility Rating for MCCC Source

Source	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganics	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
Well 1	M	M	L	L	M	M	H	M
Well 3	M	M	L	L	M	M	H	M
Well 4	M	M	L	L	M	M	H	M

L, M, or H: Low, Medium, or High susceptibility

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphate.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with the dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contaminants. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and

concentrations above allowable levels. NJDEP identified Route 29 as a potential contaminant source within the source water assessment areas for our system. **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water and what is their potential source?** 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and,
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Drinking Water Quality Data Table

Primary Standards – Related directly to the safety of drinking water

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
					Low	High			
Chlorine (Cl_2)	ppm	4	4	0.29	0.05	0.33	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Highest Result LRAA	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
					Low	High			
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] SITE 1	ppb	NA	80	< 2	NA	0	2021	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] SITE 2	ppb	NA	80	< 2	NA	0	2021	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Chemicals

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
					Low	High			
Arsenic	ppb	0	5	< 0.5	NA	0.5	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0231	NA	0.0231	2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	ppb	NA	NA	1.52	NA	1.52	2021	No	Monitoring required.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	.988	NA	.988	2021	No	Fertilizer runoff; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
					Low	High			
Total Coliform	NA	0	1 positive sample per month	1	0	1	2021	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG	AL	90th percentile	Number of samples above AL	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (tap sample)	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.529	0	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (tap sample)	ppb	0	15	9.5	0	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Radium-228	pCi/L	0	5	ND	NA	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	ppb	0	30	ND	NA	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organics

There were no Volatile Organics contaminant concentrations reported above the regulatory detection level of 0.5 ppb in 2019.

Perfluoroalkyl Substance

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG	AL	R A A	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
PFOA	ppt	0	14	18	22.4	2021	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
PFOS	ppt	0	13	7	10.8	2021	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Standards – Related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water

Contaminant	Unit	NJ RUL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	102.5	N/A	102.5	2021	No	Treatment process
Chloride	ppm	250	49.5	N/A	49.5	2021	No	Natural mineral; road salt
Hardness (as $CaCo_3$)	ppm	250	116	N/A	116	2021	No	Natural mineral
Manganese	ppb	50	< 5	N/A	< 5	2021	No	Natural mineral
pH	pH	6.5-8.5	6.7	6.61	6.9	2021	No	Treatment process
Sulfate	ppm	250	14.39	N/A	14.39	2021	No	Natural mineral
Zinc	ppb	5000	< .1	NA	< .1	2021	No	Natural mineral
Sodium	ppm	50	29.88	NA	29.88	2021	No	Natural mineral; road salt

Notes:

1. Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-postive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. Coli.* For *E. Coli*, we were required to complete a Level 1 assessment, however did not need to perform any corrective actions. Although *E. Coli* was detected, we are not in violation of the *E. Coli* MCL [40 CFR 141.13(h)(7)(iv)]. A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. Citation 40 CFR 141.153(c)(4)(i) . We were only required to do a Level 1 assessment.
2. The Copper level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 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.
3. The Lead level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 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.

Definitions

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

LRAA: Local Running Annual Average is the yearly average of all the results at each specific sampling site in the distribution system.

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 using the best available treatment technology.

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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: Picocuries Per Liter

Primary Standards: Federal drinking water regulations for substances that are health-related

RUL: Recommended Upper Limit.

Secondary Standards: Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualifies such as taste, odor, and appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.