Passaic Valley Water Commission

Storing water in open reservoirs is like drinking from a bucket that's been outside for a week

Imagine drinking water from a bucket that's been sitting outside for a week. That's what happens when treated drinking water is stored in open reservoirs.

Storing treated drinking water in open reservoirs creates unnecessary health risks. That's why we need to replace the Levine and New Street Reservoirs with secure, enclosed water tanks.

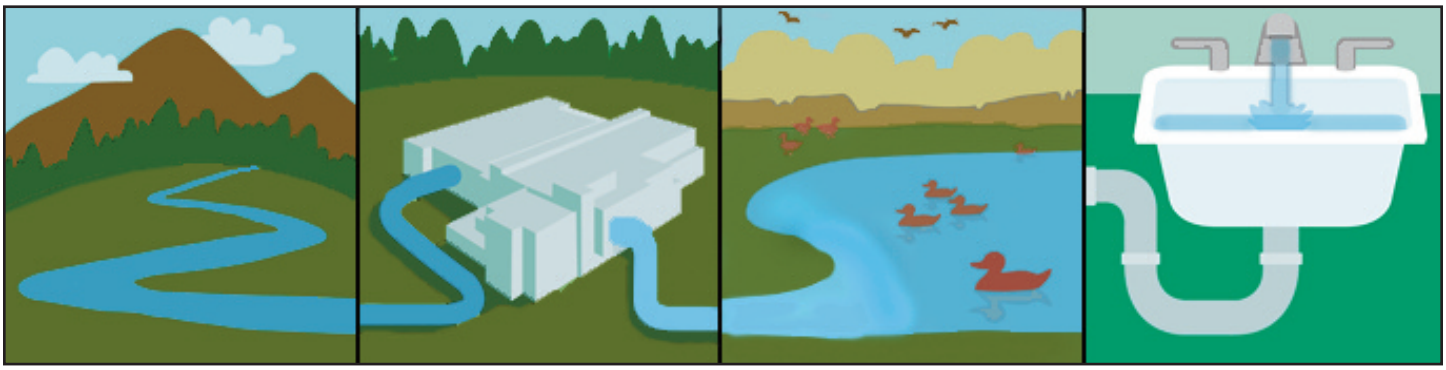
But our efforts have been delayed by a handful of people who are spreading misinformation about the project. In doing that, they're putting their own agendas ahead of your right to clean drinking water.

By storing treated drinking water in open reservoirs after it's been treated, the water can become polluted with animal waste, fecal matter, bacteria and other contaminants. Moreover, it prevents us from applying treatments to reduce the risk of lead in your drinking water.

Repeated tests have shown that water from the Levine and New Street Reservoirs is 3 times more likely to result in elevated lead levels in the drinking water. Don't be fooled, this isn't about history or aesthetics, it's about clean water.

Protecting public health and providing clean drinking water shouldn't be a matter of debate. It's time to close the reservoirs.

Water is cleaned at our state-of-the-art treatment facilities, but stored in open reservoirs before it's delivered to you.



It's time for everyone to be honest about why we need to close the Levine and New Street Reservoirs

A small group of political insiders are putting your health at risk by delaying efforts to close the reservoirs. Here's the truth about the project...

- **Storing drinking water in open reservoirs puts the public health and safety at risk.** When treated drinking water is stored in open reservoirs it allows animal waste, fecal matter, bacteria and other contaminants to re-enter the water before it's delivered to you. That's why it's so important to store the water in secure water tanks.
- **Drinking water from open reservoirs is 3 times more likely to result in elevated lead levels.** Open reservoirs prevent us from applying treatments that reduce the risk of lead. Repeated tests have shown that water from the Levine and New Street Reservoirs is 3 times more likely to result in elevated lead levels in the drinking water.
- **Closing the reservoirs is a good thing to do.** Before the US Environmental Protection Agency ordered all open reservoirs removed from service, and before the NJ Department of Environmental Protection issued the Administrative Consent Order ordering us to close our reservoirs, we were already working to close the Levine and New Street Reservoirs. We did this because open reservoirs pose a risk to public health and closing them is the right thing to do.
- **Water tanks are the safest, most secure and cost-effective alternative to open reservoirs.** Since we can't continue using the reservoirs, we had a number of engineering studies conducted to find the best alternative. The studies clearly showed that water tanks are the best alternative for protecting our drinking water.
- **Nearly every other open reservoir in the country has already been taken out of service.** This situation isn't unique to us. Since 1975, nearly all 750 open reservoirs have been closed. Unfortunately, PVWC still has 3 of the remaining open reservoirs.
- **Water tanks won't "scar scenic Garret Mountain" or "adversely impact property values."** Claims about damage to Garret Mountain or home prices simply are not true. What is true: water tanks will protect the public health and reduce the risk of lead in drinking water.
- **Putting filters on home water faucets will not solve the problem.** Home water filters can be a temporary solution to reduce the risk of lead, only if they are properly installed, regularly maintained and replaced regularly. Moreover, home water filters do nothing to protect against contamination from bacteria or animal waste.

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