

PWSID NJ1605002

# PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION

## 2021 Water Quality Report

Based on Data from the 2020 Calendar Year



### Why am I getting this report?

Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) is pleased to welcome you to our 2021 Water Quality Report. This report provides a summary of information collected during the calendar year 2020 regarding compliance monitoring required by both the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), as well as additional water quality monitoring data. We hope that you will take a minute to review this report and learn more about your drinking water. **PVWC's water met all primary health-based standards in 2020.**

Drinking water regulations require PVWC to provide this information to customers each year. Most of the language is required by the EPA and NJDEP to make sure that our ratepayers know what is in their drinking water. PVWC has tried to make this complex information readable and produce this report at a low cost.

*For additional copies of this report contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300, or [customerservice@pvwc.com](mailto:customerservice@pvwc.com).*

## This report covers water quality for the PVWC Main Service Area.

If your home or business is in Clifton, Paterson, Passaic, Prospect Park, or Woodland Park you are in PVWC's Main Service Area.

PVWC is a public drinking water supplier owned by the cities of Paterson, Clifton, and Passaic. PVWC also owns and operates the Alan C. Levine Little Falls Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

For the majority of our customers in this area, drinking water from the Little Falls WTP is blended with drinking water purchased from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque WTP. Water is sometimes supplemented through emergency interconnections from other water providers. Therefore, the quality of the water delivered to your tap is represented by the combined sets provided for PVWC's Little Falls WTP, NJDWSC's Wanaque WTP, and Newark's Pequannock WTP.

### Our Source

PVWC withdraws water from the Passaic River in Totowa, New Jersey and treats it at the Little Falls WTP. In the event of water quality issues in the Passaic River, PVWC can also withdraw water from either the Pompton River or the Point View Reservoir (which is filled from the Pompton River). A water quality monitoring station is operated by the U.S. Geological Survey on the Passaic River shortly upstream of the Little Falls WTP intake and just downstream of the Passaic River's confluence with the Pompton River. This monitoring station provides continuous data for important water quality parameters, and helps provide advance warning of adverse changes in water quality. PVWC also conducts a surface water monitoring program at various stream and river locations throughout the Passaic River watershed.



### Source Water Assessment

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002), NJDWSC system (PWS ID 1613001), and Newark system (PWS ID 0714001) can be found online at the NJDEP's source water assessment website- <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or [watersupply@dep.nj.gov](mailto:watersupply@dep.nj.gov).

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is – or will be – consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

**Intake Susceptibility Ratings**

Sources	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC Surface Water (4 intakes)	(4) High	(4) High	(1) Medium (3) Low	(4) Medium	(4) High	(4) Low	(4) Low	(4) High
NJDWSC (5 intakes)	(5) High	(5) High	(2) Medium (3) Low	(5) Medium	(5) High	(5) Low	(5) Low	(5) High
Newark (1 intake)	High	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	High

### Susceptibility Chart Definitions

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes. These contaminants may be present in source water.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, which can be either naturally occurring or man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds, and fungus. Common sources include manufacturing centers of pesticides, and where they are used in agricultural, industrial, commercial, and residential environments. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Compounds containing carbon, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are products or by-products of industrial processes or petroleum production. They are typically used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. These compounds may be present in source water as a result of releases from gas stations, fuel storage tanks, industrial facilities, stormwater runoff, and other sources. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Inorganic Contaminants:** 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. These contaminants may be present in source water.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made; may be present in source water naturally or as a result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Examples include radium, radon and uranium.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

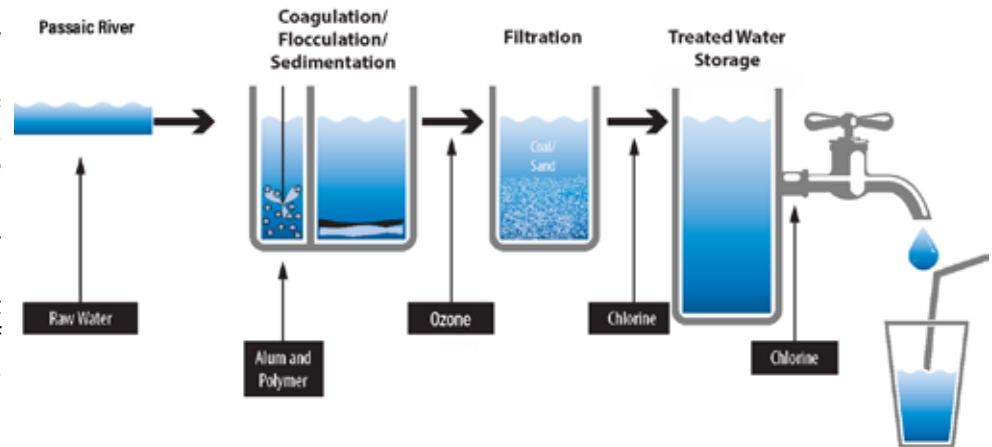
**Disinfection By-product Precursors:** A common source is naturally-occurring organic material in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine ) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (DBP precursors) present in surface water.

## Water Treatment

The Little Falls WTP is a multiple-stage advanced-technology treatment system designed and operated to provide a high degree of disinfection (for pathogenic microorganisms that can cause disease), removal of a variety of potential chemical contaminants, and treatment for aesthetic concerns such as taste, odor, and color. The treatment system uses four primary means for dealing with these contaminants, including two particle removal systems (high-rate sand-ballasted coagulation/flocculation/sedimentation, and filtration with granular activated carbon and sand) and two chemical disinfection systems (primary disinfection with ozone, and residual disinfection with chlorine).

The treatment system is designed and operated to handle the various water quality contaminants that may be present in a highly-developed watershed such as the Passaic River basin. Fluoride is not added to the water, but there are low levels naturally present in the water.

The NJDWSC's Wanaque WTP draws its water from the Wanaque Reservoir in Wanaque, New Jersey. The water treatment plant uses conventional treatment comprised of coagulation/flocculation/sedimentation, gravity filtration through sand and anthracite, and chlorine disinfection.



## Uncovered Drinking Water Storage Reservoirs

PVWC operates three open drinking water reservoirs in Woodland Park and Paterson to provide storage capacity (the Great Notch Reservoir, New Street Reservoir, and Stanley Levine Reservoir). Treated water from the Little Falls WTP is pumped to these reservoirs, and that water is then withdrawn for distribution to PVWC's customers. Unfortunately, since these reservoirs are uncovered, they are subject to bacteriological and chemical contamination from wildlife and other natural and man-made causes. As a result, the high quality of this already-treated water from the Little Falls WTP may be compromised. While the water withdrawn from the reservoirs is rechlorinated on-site to provide further disinfection, chlorine is not very effective against pathogenic microorganisms such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*.

Federal law requires that all uncovered drinking water reservoirs in the U.S. must be covered or have treatment applied beyond chlorination to ensure adequate disinfection. PVWC has entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the NJDEP for closing these reservoirs in accordance with federal and state regulations. When implemented, those plans will help maintain the high quality of water provided by the Little Falls WTP and provide appropriate protection of public health.

### Administrative Consent Order (ACO) Compliance Requirement- Uncovered Finished Water Reservoirs

Explanation	Length	Steps Taken	Health Effects
Three PVWC finished water reservoirs are not covered. Their discharge is disinfected, but not filtered. A feasibility study to identify the best practical solution to address the uncovered finished water reservoirs was completed and approved by the NJDEP. Final plans to address the three reservoirs have been included in an Administrative Consent Order (ACO).	Determined by the State as per the ACO.	Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to eliminate or cover these reservoirs, treat the discharge from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state-approved schedule to eliminate or cover the reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. We have executed an Administrative Consent Order with the NJDEP wherein PVWC was required to develop a plan and implementation schedule to eliminate, cover or provide treatment for our uncovered reservoirs. A three-phase plan to address the reservoirs was developed and is being implemented. The first phase, which includes new tanks at the Levine Reservoir, has been designed and is in the NJDEP permit review process. The construction of the second phase, which addresses New Street Reservoir, will proceed after Levine has been completed. Similarly, the construction of the third and final phase, which addresses the Great Notch Reservoir, will commence upon the completion of New Street. PVWC is currently working with the City of Newark in a Joint Venture arrangement for a feasibility assessment of the Joint Distribution System Water Storage project.	Inadequately protected or inadequately treated water may contain disease causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea.

Many public drinking water supplies add a phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor to the drinking water to minimize leaching of lead from household plumbing systems and lead service lines. However, phosphate can promote algal growth in water when exposed to sunlight. As a result, PVWC cannot add corrosion inhibitor to the water supply that goes into the uncovered drinking water reservoirs. PVWC is currently in compliance with the Federal and State requirements for lead (see notice elsewhere in this CCR regarding lead). However, the water supply is still susceptible to leaching lead from plumbing and lead service lines. PVWC has implemented a phased approach for adding corrosion inhibitor to the water leaving the reservoirs. PVWC currently adds corrosion inhibitor at four locations to provide coverage to parts of the system. Once the uncovered reservoirs are addressed, we will be able to add corrosion inhibitor to the entire water system, providing further protection of public health. Other steps PVWC is taking include testing the system on a weekly and monthly basis for parameters that indicate how the corrosion control treatment systems are working, replacing PVWC-owned lead service lines, and continuing our multi-faceted lead public awareness campaign to keep you informed.

## About This Report

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is charged with monitoring compliance with those limits by water providers in the state.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visit [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled, include surface sources such as rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs, and groundwater sources (wells). As water moves through the ground or over surfaces it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of human or animal activity. Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:

**Microbial-** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pet waste, and wildlife.

**Inorganic-** salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban storm runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas productions, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and Herbicides-** from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemicals-** both synthetic and volatile, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive-** can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND OTHERS

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

## Definitions

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

**Haloacetic Acids (HAAs):** By-products of the treatment process that are formed when the disinfectant chlorine combines with organic matter in the source water. Since chlorine is important for disinfection, HAAs will be present, but they are monitored very closely by water utilities.

**Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L):** A measure of the concentration of a substance in a given volume of water. One part per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per Liter (ug/L):** An even finer measure of concentration. One part per billion corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity.

**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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water. The 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 disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** A measure of particles in water.

**Recommended Upper Limit (RUL):** The highest level of a constituent of drinking water that is recommended in order to protect aesthetic quality.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs):** By-products of the treatment process that are formed when the disinfectant chlorine combines with organic matter in the source water. Since chlorine is important for disinfection, TTHMs will be present, but they are monitored very closely by water utilities.

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

## Cryptosporidium

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are viable or capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps.

Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

PVWC regularly samples source water for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. The data collected in 2020 is presented in the table above.

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring		
Contaminant	Results for PVWC Plant Intake	Typical Source
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (Oocysts/L)	0.0 - 0.09	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
<i>Giardia</i> (Cysts/L)	0.0 - 0.83	

## A Note to People with Special Health Concerns

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 reduce the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### 2020 Water Quality Results- Table of Detected Contaminants PVWC Main System PWSID 1605002

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PWVC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	Newark Water Pequannock-WTP PWSID NJ0714001	Source of Substance	Violation?
<b>Treated Drinking Water at the Treatment Plant</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Treatment Technique (TT) = 1 NTU	Highest Level Detected and Range (Low-High)			Soil run-off	No
			0.266 (0.021 -0.266)	0.9 (0.01-0.9)	2.11* (0.01-2.11)		
	NA	TT= % of samples <0.3 NTU (min 95%)	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits				
			100%	99.1%	99.6%		
<i>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can limit the effectiveness of disinfectants.</i>							
<i>*On 9/25/2020 the turbidity at the Pequannock WTP rose rapidly due to the failure of a valve feeding coagulant chemical. The valve was repaired on the afternoon of 9/26/2020. Chlorine levels were adjusted as needed to provide additional disinfection. Sampling was conducted to ensure the absence of coliform bacteria.</i>							
Total Organic Carbon (%)	NA	TT=% removal or Removal Ratio	% Removal 55-82 (25 - 50 required)	Removal Ratio (0.8-1.1)      (1.08-1.45)		Naturally present in the environment.	No
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.026 (0.016-0.026)	0.0078	0.00665	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Bromate (ppm)	NA	10	6.98 (<5.0-6.98)			By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.050 (ND-0.05)	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	3.40 (1.96-3.40)	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.14 (0.59-2.14)	0.154	ND	Runoff from fertilizer use; leach- ing from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	ND (2014 Data)	ND (2014 Data)	1.5 (2017 Data)	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
<b>Treated Drinking Water from Points throughout the Distribution System- PVWC PWSID NJ1605002</b>							
Disinfection Residual							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.23 <i>highest running annual average at any one location</i> (ND-4.30)			Water additive used to control microbes.	No
Disinfection Byproducts							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	NA	60	25.17 <i>highest running annual average at any one location</i> (4.54-30.58)			By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	NA	80	47.18 <i>highest running annual average at any one location</i> (11.2-84.8)			By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
<i>Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.</i>							
<b>Regulated at the Consumer Tap</b>							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 (Action Level)	0.064 (0 out of 141 samples exceeded AL Jan-Jun) 0.057 (0 out of 129 samples exceeded AL Jul-Dec)			Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Lead (ppb)	0	15 (Action Level)	6.41 (3 out of 141 samples exceeded AL Jan-Jun) 8.27 (9 out of 129 samples exceeded AL Jul-Dec)			Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No

*\*Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink the water over many years could develop kidney problems of high blood pressure.*

NA - not applicable  
ND - not detected

## 2020 Water Quality Results- Table of Detected Secondary Parameters

Contaminant	NJ Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001		Newark Water Pequannock-WTP PWSID NJ0714001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved?	Result	RUL Achieved?	Result	RUL Achieved?
<b>Treated Drinking Water at the Treatment Plant</b>							
Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS]/Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	500	90-120	Yes	ND	Yes	ND (2017 Data)	Yes
Alkalinity (ppm)	NA	47-79	NA	39	NA	26.9	NA
Aluminum (ppb)	200	12.8-32.4	Yes	77	Yes	37.2	Yes
Chloride (ppm)	250	92.2-138.1	Yes	47.2	Yes	36.5	Yes
Color (color units)	10	<5	Yes	2	Yes	2	Yes
Copper (ppm)	<1	ND	Yes	0.012	Yes	ND	Yes
Hardness, CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	250	88-178	Yes	53	Yes	45.7	Yes
Iron (ppb)	300	<100	Yes	104	Yes	7	Yes
Manganese (ppb)	50	11.5-25.5	Yes	5.3	Yes	38	Yes
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	2-100	No	<1	Yes	<1	Yes
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	7.6-8.4	Yes	8.05	Yes	7.56	Yes
Sodium (ppm)	50	46.1-94.8	No*	23.4	Yes	23.5	Yes
Sulfate (ppm)	250	44.7-87.8	Yes	7.54	Yes	11	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	301-510	No	104	Yes	110	Yes
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.9-3.7	Yes	13	Yes	ND	Yes
<b>Treated Drinking Water from Points throughout the Distribution System- PVWC PWSID NJ1605002</b>							
Iron (ppb)	300	170.8 annual average	Yes				
Manganese (ppb)	50	15.29 annual average	Yes				

*\*\*PVWC's finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL). Possible sources of sodium include natural soil runoff, roadway salt runoff, upstream wastewater treatment plants, and a contribution coming from chemicals used in the water treatment process. 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.*

## Testing For Emerging Contaminants

Contaminant	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	<i>Test results presented in this table were collected in 2020 to monitor the occurrence of emerging contaminants. There are currently no EPA drinking water standards for these contaminants.</i>
	Range of Results	
<b>Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System</b>		
Chlorate (ppb)	121.2-344.9	PVWC monitors for the presence of perfluorochemicals in source water and finished drinking water monthly. The NJDEP has formally established MCLs for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) of 14 ppt and 13 ppt respectively. These rules were effective January 1, 2021. The results observed in 2020 were below the NJDEP newly established MCL.
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	ND-0.243	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	<2.0-3.1	
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHp/A] (ppt)	<2.0-3.1	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	<2.0-2.1	
Perfluorohexanoic acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	3.1-8.6	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2.9-4.4	
Perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA] (ppt)	4.8-7.6	

## Monitoring Waiver Information

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos and synthetic organic compounds (SOCs). A monitoring waiver was granted for distribution system monitoring of asbestos in the PVWC Main Distribution System for the 2020-2028 monitoring period.

## Important Information About Lead In Your 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. PVWC 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

### Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. Lead can also be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass plumbing fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry. Exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies can also be sources (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Lead is not present in the water supplied to you. When water has been in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead. Homes built before 1985 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead or lead solder. New homes may also have lead. Even brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free" may contain some lead.

### Water Testing

Routinely 100 or more homes known to contain lead service lines and/or plumbing components are monitored in PVWC's main system. These houses represent a worst-case scenario for lead in water. Samples are collected after the water has been standing in the household plumbing for 6 hours or more.

A Lead and Copper Rule exceedance for lead occurs when more than 10 percent of these homes exceed the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

In the most recent round of testing conducted by PVWC between July and December in 2020, 9 out of 129 homes exceeded the action level for lead.

For testing conducted between January and June of 2020, 3 out of 141 homes exceeded the action level for lead.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us at 973-340-4300, [customerservice@pvwc.com](mailto:customerservice@pvwc.com) or visit our website at [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's resources below, or contact your health care provider.

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

National Lead Information Center: 800-424-LEAD

EPA Website: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)



### How You Can Reduce Your Exposure to Lead

- 1. Run your water to flush out lead.** Run your cold water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Flushing usually uses less than one or two gallons of water and costs less than 30 cents per month.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. If purchasing a water filter, read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead. You can also contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit their website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** Call PVWC at 973-340-4300 to find out how to get your water tested for lead, or for a list of local laboratories that are certified for testing lead.
- 6. Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.
- 7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** A licensed plumber can check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes, or pipe fittings that contain lead. Your local building/code department can provide you with information about building permit records that should contain the names of plumbing contractors who plumbed your home.
- 8. Find out whether your service line is made of lead.** PVWC maintains records of PVWC-owned materials, such as service lines (water main to curb box), located in the distribution system. Contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300 for service line materials records.

You should also determine whether or not the service line that comes from the curb box to your home is made of lead. The best way to determine if the service line to your home is made of lead is by hiring a licensed plumber to inspect the line.



**Passaic Valley Water Commission**  
**1525 Main Avenue - P.O. Box 230**  
**Clifton, NJ 07011**

This report contains information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

આ અહેવાલ મેં તમારા પીવાના પાણી વિષે અગત્યની માહિતી આપવા મેં આવી છે. અને અજાણ કરો અથવા જેને સમજાવવા પડતી હોય તેના સાથે વાત કરો

للعلم في هذا التقرير تحتوي على معلومات مهمة عن مياه الشرب التي تشربها. من فضلك اذا لم تفهم هذه المعلومات اطلب من يترجمها لك.

*For water saving tips and water conservation ideas please visit our website [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com) and select Water Saving Tips and Education from the Water Quality pull down menu.*

Dear Passaic Valley Water Commission Consumer,

I am pleased to share the 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report with you. Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC), prides itself in providing this comprehensive and accessible report. This report provides our customers with important information about the quality of their drinking water.

Your drinking water is delivered to your tap through an extensive distribution system of pipes, tanks, and reservoirs. This is all made possible by our dedicated and certified staff that manage and maintain this system to preserve the drinking water quality. Throughout this process, the PVWC monitors your drinking water for more than 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants to ensure that our system delivers high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards.

PVWC owns and operates three large, uncovered drinking water reservoirs that must be eliminated under a federal mandate by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Final alternatives and plans are being developed for this infrastructure improvement project which will be constructed over the next 10 years at an estimated cost of \$135 million. This project will further enhance the quality of the water delivered to our customers as well as the safety, reliability, and resiliency of the overall system.

If you have any questions related to this report, water quality, water pressure, billing, construction projects, or other inquiries, please contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300. Our hours of operation, including the walk-up payment window, are Monday through Friday, excluding State holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our phone lines are open an extra half hour until 6:30 p.m. You can also contact us via email at [customerservice@pvwc.com](mailto:customerservice@pvwc.com). Additional information about PVWC, including important news and alerts, can be found on our website at [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com). For emergencies call 973-340-4300, 24 hours per day/7 days per week.

Sincerely,

Hon. Ruby N. Cotton  
 President, PVWC Board of Commissioners

## We're Here for You

The PVWC Board of Commissioners encourages you to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water. You can present your comments through the PVWC website at [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com) or come in person to the monthly meetings of the Board of Commissioners. For dates, times and locations of these meetings, or for additional copies of this report contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300, or [customerservice@pvwc.com](mailto:customerservice@pvwc.com). All meetings are announced in accordance with public meetings law.

For Board Agendas and Meeting Minutes, or for more information on upcoming meetings visit us at [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com) or contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300, or [customerservice@pvwc.com](mailto:customerservice@pvwc.com).



### Commissioners

- Ruby N. Cotton, President, Paterson*
- Ronald Van Rensalier, Vice President, Passaic*
- Gerald Friend, Treasurer, Clifton*
- Jeffrey Levine, Secretary, Paterson*
- Carmen Depadua, Commissioner, Paterson*
- Joseph Kolodziej, Commissioner, Clifton*
- Rigoberto Sanchez, Commissioner, Passaic*