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Important Information About Your Drinking Water

North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Our water system did not comply with the filtration requirements, specifically, our turbidity exceeded 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) in representative samples of the Combined Filter Effluent (CFE) water. The Combined Filter Effluent is the water leaving all the filters in the treatment plant.

The North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (Commission) operates a conventional surface water treatment plant in Wanaque, NJ. The Commission routinely monitors the CFE as required by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. On May 4, 2019 the turbidity in the reservoir which feeds our treatment plant rose rapidly. It is theorized that high suspended solids, an algae bloom and a rain event caused the turbidity exceedance. Due to the increased turbidity entering our treatment plant, the CFE turbidity exceeded 1 NTU from May 4, 2019 11:35 p.m. until May 5, 2019, 12:35 a.m. The North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's highest sample result was 2.45 NTU.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

**Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasite that can cause symptoms*

*such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches**. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What was done?

The Commission immediately adjusted the treatment processes to correct the problem and increased the chlorine dosage to provide additional disinfection. These adjustments may cause taste and odor issues.

Additionally, samples were collected throughout the distribution system for bacteria and chlorine residuals. All bacteria results were negative and chlorine residuals were at acceptable values. Therefore, the Commission has no reason to believe that there is an immediate risk to public health but are closely monitoring the situation.

The turbidity in the reservoir has returned to normal and the CFE turbidity has returned to below 1 NTU as required.

For more information, or to learn more about protecting your drinking water please contact:

Maureen Kneser at 973-831-3359, Paul Kearney at 973-831-3351 or Lewis Schneider at 973-831-6244.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This is being sent by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, NJ PWSID # 1613001. Date Distributed: 5/14/19.