Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

2024 (2023 Data)

Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority
PWSID# NJ1512001

People and Resources Working Together

Because water quality is your business, the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority is pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to keep you informed about the quality of your drinking water and the services we deliver to you every day. We are committed to providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and water pollution control services. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect your natural water resources.

Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority's goal is to provide you with water that meets or surpasses all the standards for safe drinking water.

These health and safety standards are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). We're at work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide you and your family with top quality water. We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the NJDEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. Both the EPA and the NJDEP require water suppliers to send a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to customers on an annual basis.

This CCR provides important information about your drinking water. It shows how your drinking water measured up to government standards during 2023. Please read it carefully and feel free to call Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority at 609-693-8188 or the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 with any questions. If you have specific questions about water as it relates to your personal health we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Your Water Supply

Lacey Township's sole source of drinking water supply is groundwater (well water). Groundwater is formed when rain filters through the soil and creates a vast underground reservoir (aquifer). Lacey Township's water is drawn from the Kirkwood-Cohansey, Atlantic City 800-Foot Sand and Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifers by seven supply wells, processed at three treatment plants and delivered to our customers through the Lacey MUA's 144 miles of distribution system. Some of the approximately 2 million gallons of water produced each day is temporarily stored in water towers. The water held in these storage towers helps maintain pressure and serves as a back-up supply during periods of heavy demand and emergencies.

Contact Information

Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority 34 R. Kennedy Blvd., P.O. Box 205 Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM

Waived Requirements

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system has been granted a waiver for asbestos.

Lead Notice

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. Lacey Township MUA 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.

Call us at **609-693-8188** to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

Landlord Distribution

Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.)

How do drinking water sources become polluted?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, which 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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Source Water Assessments

The NJDEP has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for public water systems, which are available at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting the NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550.

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 contamination. 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. As a result of the assessments, NJDEP may customize or change existing monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at watersupply@dep.state.nj.us or 609-292-5550.

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

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements (both naturally occurring and man-made) that aid plant growth. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

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

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

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

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

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 used to kill pathogens (usually chlorine) react with dissolved organic material (leaves, etc.) in surface water.

	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells – 7			7	5		2			7	5		2	7			5	2			2	5		7	

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 lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lacey MUA's 2023 Water Quality Results - PWSID# NJ1512001

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
Barium Test Results Year 2023	2 ppm	2 ppm	Range: 0.021 - 0.059 Highest: 0.059	N	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries, and erosion of natural deposits
Mercury Test Results Year 2023	2 ppb	2 ppb	Range: ND - 0.031 Highest: 0.31	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Test Results Year 2023	n/a	none	Range: 1.15 - 1.57 ppb Highest: 1.57 ppb	N	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test Results Year 2023	10 ppm	10 ppm	Range: ND - 0.133 Highest: 0.133	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Copper & Lead	**MCLG**	**AL**	**Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
Copper Test Results Year 2021	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90th Percentile: 0.086 Samples > AL: 0 of 31	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test Results Year 2021	0 ppb	15 ppb	90th Percentile: 0.0 Samples > AL: 0 of 31	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Regulated Disinfectants	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
Chlorine Test Results Year 2023	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	Range: 0.68 - 1.51 RAA: 1.06	N	Water additive to control microbes
Volatile Organic Compounds / Disinfection By-products	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Likely Source**
HAA5 Haloaecetic Acids Test Results Year 2023	n/a	60 ppb	Range: 0.0 -1.4 Highest LRAA: 0.35	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test Results Year 2023	n/a	80 ppb	Range: 1.4 - 10.9 Highest LRAA: 6.35	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Secondary Contaminants		**RUL**	**Level Found**	**RUL Exceedance**	**Likely Source**
Aluminum Test Year 2023		0.2 ppm	Range: ND - 0.0713 Highest: 0.0713	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride Test Results Year 2023		250 ppm	Range: 9.47 - 15 Highest: 15	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, Carbonate Test Results Year 2023		250 ppm	Range: 43 - 48.8 Highest: 48.8	N	Naturally present in the environment
Iron Test Results Year 2023		0.3 ppm	Range: ND-0.032 Highest: 0.032	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese Test Results Year 2023		0.05 ppm	Range: ND-0.0132 Highest: 0.0132	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor Test Results Year 2023		3 Ton	Range: 1.16-4.19 Highest: 4.19	Y	Naturally present in the environment
pH Test Results Year 2023		6.5-8.5 Units	Range: 5.2 - 8.0 Average: 7.16	N	Naturally present in the environment

Secondary Contaminants	RUL	Level Found	RUL Exceedance	Likely Source
Sodium Test Results Year 2023	50 ppm	Range: 5.79 - 8.42 Highest: 8.42	N	Naturally present in the environment
Sulfate Test Results Year 2023	250 ppm	Range: 6.65 - 10.1 Highest: 10.1	N	Erosion from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Test Results Year 2023	500 ppm	Range: 71 -88 Highest: 88	N	Erosion from natural deposits
Zinc Test Results Year 2023	5 ppm	Range: ND - 0.005 Highest: 0.005	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Note on Recommended Upper Limit Exceedances: Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.

Microbiologicals-Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	Number Required	Number Completed	Corrective Actions Required	Corrective Actions Completed
Level 1 Assessment - Total Coliform	0	0	0	0

Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Lacey had 0 positive results for coliform bacteria in 360 samples.

Unregulated Contaminants for which the EPA requires monitoring	Reference Concentration	Level Detected	
Manganese Test Result Year 2018	300 ppb	Range: 33.4 - 48.7 Highest: 48.7	Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and DEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Additional information about unregulated contaminants can be found at the following link, courtesy of the EPA: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/ 2017-03/documents/ucmr4-fact-sheet-general.pdf
HAA5 Haloaecetic Acids Test Result Year 2018	60 ppb	Range: ND - 0.8 Highest: 0.8	
HAA6BR Test Result Year 2018	N/A	Range: ND - 1.1 Average: 1.1	
HAA9 Test Result Year 2018	N/A	Range: ND-1.6 Average: 1.6	
Bromide Test Result Year 2018	N/A	Range: 23 - 37 Average: 37	

Footnotes

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data though representative, are more than one year old.

Testing for Perfluoroctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS), Perfluoroctanoic Acid (PFOA), and Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) was completed in 2023. All test results were non-detect. The next round of testing will occur in 2024 for Regulated PFAS.

Definitions

ppm **Parts Per Million**: equivalent of 1 second in 12 days

ppb **Parts Per Billion**: equivalent of 1 second in 32 years

ppt **Parts Per Trillion**: equivalent of 1 second in 32,000 years

pCi/L **Picocuries Per Liter:** equivalent to 1 second in 32,000 years

ND **Not Detected**

n/a **Not Applicable**

RUL **Recommended Upper Limit**

RAA **Running Annual Average**

LRAA **Locational Running Annual Average**

CU **Color Unit**

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

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

MCL **Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MCLG **Maximum Contaminant 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 disinfectant to control microbial contamination.

MRDL **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefit of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period of 1/1/23 to 12/31/23, we monitored for regulated PFAS. Samples were taken but the results were submitted late. No further action is needed at this time.

During the compliance period of 01/01/2023 to 06/30/23 we monitored for source water pH as a water quality parameter. Samples were submitted late to the DEP. No further action is needed at this time.

During the compliance period of 07/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 we were required to sample distribution system pH over the optimal water quality parameter lower limit of 7.0 units. Several samples during this period were 6.8 and 6.9, which triggered water quality parameter excursions resulting in further action including the public notice you already received. The federal and state secondary standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5, which all our distribution system and point of entry samples were within. The optimal water quality parameter limits for pH were established to maximize water quality specifically for lead and copper corrosion control. The 90th percentile values for lead sampling (15 ppb action level) from 2018 to 2024 have been 2.44, 0.0, and 0.92 over a total of 137 samples. We are confident that the water you receive has been effective at limiting corrosion of service line and household plumbing. We have made adjustments to internal procedures to ensure all water quality parameter values are within the optimal range in the future.

Protecting Our Water Supply

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the lakes and oceans our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings and other pollutants end up in our water. Sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our lives, we can keep pollutants out of storm water.

As a resident or business owner in Lacey Township, it is important to know the following things you can do every day to protect our water:

- Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides. If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply them. Never apply fertilizers if heavy rains are predicted. Do not over apply fertilizers and pesticides.
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products. Hazardous products such as household cleaning products, used motor oil, lawn and garden products, antifreeze and paints must be used and disposed of properly. Never dispose of hazardous products on the ground or in storm drains. Contact the Township of Lacey on how and where you can properly dispose of hazardous products.
- Clean up after your pet. Use a plastic bag or pooper-scooper to clean up after your pet. Dispose of wrapped pet waste in the garbage. Never dispose of pet waste in storm drains.
- Dispose of yard waste properly. Keep leaves and grass clippings out of storm drains. Take advantage of Lacey Township's services for disposal of leaves and other yard wastes. Use a mulching mower to recycle grass clippings into your lawn.

Water Conservation Tips

- Check your toilets for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Do not flush the toilet. If color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Toilet leaks can cause elevated water usage, which will increase both your water and sewer bill.
- Take shorter showers. Long showers can waste five to ten gallons per minute. Install water–saving shower heads to reduce water consumption while showering.
- Don't allow water to run while brushing your teeth or shaving. Wet your toothbrush and fill a cup to rinse. Fill the sink a few inches to rinse your razor instead of letting the faucet run.
- Run full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer. Partial loads waste water.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even small leaks over a long period of time can add up to large amounts of water wasted.
- Water your lawn in the early morning to prevent evaporation. Water your lawn long enough to soak down into the roots but less frequently. Watering your lawn frequently without soaking the roots will encourage a shallow root system. Watering your lawn in the evening may cause fungus growth.
- Plant drought resistant trees and plants. There are many beautiful trees and plants that require far less water than other species. Put a layer of mulch around your plants and trees. Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.
- Don't allow your garden hose to run while washing your car. Use the hose only to wet and rinse the car.
- Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks. Using a hose to wash driveways and sidewalks will result in wasted water.
- Safe Drinking Water is a valuable resource. Encourage your family and friends to conserve. You may see significant savings in your water and sewer bills as a result of water conservation

Clean Water Doesn't Just Happen

The Lacey MUA takes great pride in its staff of trained professionals that continuously work to ensure that a safe supply of drinking water is available whenever you need it. The quality of your water supply depends on each of us making water-wise choices. Don't wait until it is too late to consider how small changes in your everyday water use can help preserve this resource.

Every day, as individuals, we make decisions that affect the future of our drinking water, whether it's simply turning off the tap while brushing our teeth, disposing of household toxins properly, or supporting land use practices that protect our natural water resources.

Each water-wise decision we make adds up to cleaner, safer drinking water. Single actions multiply into municipal, county and statewide results when individuals, organizations and businesses work together to clean up our waterways, protect watersheds and curb pollution. We can no longer afford to take our water for granted. Be water-wise, don't waste this life-supporting resource.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to learn more about your water supply and the services the Lacey MUA provides, please contact: **Edward Woolf, Executive Director, at 609-693-8188**.

Call Lacey MUA First

If your main sewer line becomes blocked, call us before hiring a contractor. All first-floor drains will be slow or blocked if your main sewer line is blocked. If only one drain is blocked and others are not, this would indicate an internal plumbing problem. The Authority is only responsible for the main sewer line from the curb to the main line in the street. The Authority will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by you to an outside company unless we are first given notice of a service problem and the opportunity to resolve it.

Lacey MUA has service personnel on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Please contact the Lacey Township Police Department at 693-6636 to request service for any water or sewer emergency after normal business hours.