



## Trenton Water Works

### Important Information About Your Drinking Water

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Public Water System ID No.

**1111001**

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### Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation for Trenton Water Works

**This is not an emergency.** But you have a right to know what happened and what Trenton Water Works (TWW), your public water system, is doing to correct this situation. TWW recently violated a drinking water standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). As you are aware, TWW previously exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TTHMs during the third quarter of 2018. TWW's compliance with the MCL for this parameter is based on each sampling site's running annual average (LRAA). The running annual average for sampling sites within our water distribution system remains above the MCL (80 parts per billion). **TWW is taking steps to lower the formation of TTHMs in our water distribution system.**



**Testing results from November, 2018, show that the fourth quarter LRAA for four sampling sites exceeded the MCL for this quarter with the highest value at 88 ppb, compared to the MCL of 80 ppb.**

#### What Are TTHMs?

TTHMs are known as disinfectant by-products (DBPs). DBPs form when naturally occurring organic matter combines with chlorine (disinfectants) added to kill microorganisms (e.g. bacteria). The MCL for TTHM is 80 ppb (parts per billion). Compliance with the MCL is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling site for the past 12 months (LRAA).

#### What Does This Mean?

**This is not an emergency.** If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Some people who drink water containing TTHMs 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.

#### What Is Trenton Water Works Doing to Reduce Disinfection By-products in Drinking Water?

Disinfection by-products (DBPs) remain an issue; therefore, TWW is executing several comprehensive actions to reduce the concentration of DBPs in our finished drinking water. First, we cleaned the superpulsator settling tanks at our water filtration plant, where the wastewater from the filter backwater process is treated, to improve their efficiency, and we are currently cleaning, repairing, and sandblasting the chlorine contact tanks. Second, we conducted unidirectional flushing of water mains by strategically opening hydrants throughout our five municipality service area. Third, we drained, cleaned and disinfected elevated storage tanks in our water-distribution system. Fourth, we have replaced water meters and flushed service lines at sampling locations to ensure the best representative sampling data. TWW will engage an engineering firm to help us evaluate our current water-treatment process and assess our water-distribution system operation to recommend long-term solutions to reduce DBPs in our public water system. TWW is working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and will continue to keep our customers, residents, and stakeholders informed of our comprehensive, science-based efforts to ensure safe, reliable water quality.

#### What Should I Do?

**There is nothing you need to do.** You do not need to boil your water, use an alternate (e.g., bottled) water supply, or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. 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.

Please share this information with all 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. **TWW's customer service number is (609) 989-3055.**