

Dear Consumer:

During calendar year 2007, the Borough of Elmwood Park water supply was tested for over 80 contaminants that might be found in water. These tests included items ranging from taste and odor to bacteriological and chemical contaminants. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) set health and safety standards for public water supplies. We are pleased to inform you that your water meets or exceeds the health and safety standards put forth.

This annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), provides additional information on our sources of supply and the quality of the water we deliver. For more information on this report or about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions concerning drinking water, please contact:

Robert De Block, Licensed Water System Operator  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
182 Market Street  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407  
973-239-0173

The Elmwood Park Water Department is a division of local government working under the direction of the Mayor and Council. All meetings of the Mayor and Council are advertised in advance in the legal section of the local newspaper. The Elmwood Park Water Department will notify consumers as required by the NJDEP if water quality fails to meet the standards.

#### General Information

Rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells are sources for both tap water and bottled water. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and 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 the result from urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Organic, chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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. However, the presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

### **Health and Educational Information**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### **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, especially 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 the additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standard is based.

### **Sources of Supply**

The Elmwood Park water supply obtains its entire water supply from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC). Sources of supply include the Passaic River, and treated water that is supplied by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC). NJDWSC obtains water its supply from the Wanaque Reservoir.

### **Source Water Assessment**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. The PWSID numbers for PVWC is NJ1605002 and for NJDWS it is NJ1613001. The local PWSID number for Elmwood Park is NJ0211001 and the local contact number is James DeBlock at 973-239-0173.

### **Treatment**

Water produced by the PVWC is treated at their water treatment plant in Little Falls. The NJDWSC supply is treated at their water treatment plant in Wanaque. The treatment at these plants includes pretreatment, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The Borough of Elmwood Park, PVWC and the NJDWSC Water Quality Tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during calendar year 2006. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. The NJDEP requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Table 1  
 Elmwood Park Water Department - Water Quality Report

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS and DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Regulated Contaminant	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range Detected	Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Chlorine as CL2 (Running avg.)	PPM	4	4	N	1.9	.1 - 1.9	Chlorine is used as a drinking water disinfectant.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	PPB	NA	80	Y	78 (Highest Running Average)	59 - 78	Byproduct of water disinfection. / TTHM compliance is based on running annual average.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	PPB	NA	60	N	30 (Highest Running Average)	25 - 30	Byproduct of water disinfection. / TTHM compliance is based on running annual average.

Secondary Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Units	RUL	Range Detected	Highest Level	Source of Contamination
Iron	PPM	.3	.42	.42	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Manganese	PPM	0.05	.0169	.0169	Erosion of natural deposits.

Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Value of 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Highest Level	Source of Contamination
Copper	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	N	0.0905	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (N)	PPB	0	AL=15	N	3	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

WATER SUPPLIED BY THE ELMWOOD PARK WATER DEPARTMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY DETECTABLE LEAD.

LEAD AND COPPER. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE IS BASED ON THE 90<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE RESULT FROM POINTS OF USE IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

The NJDEP requires all water systems to monitor their distribution systems for disinfection byproducts including four Trihalomethanes (THM4) and five Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) compounds. The quarterly results for each byproducts group are then used to calculate a running annual average.

**MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water everyday at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

Table 2  
Passaic Valley Water Commission Water Quality Report

## PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Highest Level	Range Detected	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	NTU	0	TT (1 NTU)	N	2.6	.01-2.6	Soil Runoff.
		0	TT (% of samples <0.3 NTU)	N	99.0%	NA	
Total Organic Carbon	%	NA	TT (25% - 50% Minimum Removal Required)	N	54% Average % Removal	53% - 73%	Naturally present in the environment.

## DETECTED SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS: Plant Effluent 2007

Detected Secondary Analytes	UNIT	RUL	Highest Result	RUL Achieved	Likely Source of Contamination/ And Comments
Alkalinity	PPM	NA	86	NA	
Aluminum	PPB	NA	100	YES	
Chloride	PPM	250	168	YES	Natural mineral and road salt.
Copper	PPM	1000	70	YES	
Corrosivity	Index	+ or - 1.0	-2.0	No	
Hardness (as CaCo3)	PPM	250	150	Yes	Natural mineral.
pH	SU	6.5 to 8.5	8.4	Yes	
Sodium	PPM	50	123	No	Natural mineral and road salt. For healthy individuals, sodium intake from drinking water is of little significance because a much greater intake of sodium results from salt in the diet. Sodium levels above the RUL may be of concern to individuals on sodium restricted diets.
Sulfate	PPM	250	85	Yes	
TDS	PPM	500	336	Yes	

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminant	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range Detected	Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Barium	PPM	2	2	N	0.02	ND - 0.02	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Beryllium	PPB	4	4	N	2	NA	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries.
Cadmium	PPB	5	5	N	3	ND - 3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints.
Nitrate	PPM	10	10	N	5.67	1.01 - 5.67	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage and erosion of natural deposits.

Table 3  
NJDWSC Water Quality Report

## PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminant	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range Detected	Source of Contamination and Comments
Turbidity	NTU	0	TT (1 NTU)	N	.25	NA	Soil Runoff.
		0	TT (% of samples <0.3 NTU)	N	100%	NA	
Total Organic Carbon	%	NA	TT (25% - 45% Minimum Removal Required)	N	33% Average % Removal	33% - 54%	Naturally present in the environment.

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminant	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range Detected	Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Arsenic	PPB	0	10 Federal 5 State	N	0.6	NA	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	PPM	2	2	N	0.008	NA	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Fluoride	PPM	4	4	N	0.095	NA	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury	PPB	2	2	N	.055	NA	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.
Nitrate	PPM	10	10	N	0.50	NA	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage and erosion of natural deposits.

## DETECTED SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS:

Detected Secondary Analytes	UNIT	RUL	Highest Result	RUL Archived	Likely Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Alkalinity	PPM	NA	23.5	NA	
Aluminum	PPB	200	20.6	NA	
Chloride	PPM	250	31.5	Yes	Natural mineral and road salt.
Color	CU	10	2	Yes	
Hardness (as CaCo3)	PPM	250	38.3	Yes	Natural mineral.
Iron	PPB	300	9	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Manganese	PPB	50	7.6	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits.
pH	SU	6.5 to 8.5	7.8	Yes	
Sodium	PPM	50	17	Yes	Natural mineral and road salt. For healthy individuals, sodium intake from drinking water is of little significance because a much greater intake of sodium results from salt in the diet. Sodium levels above the RUL may be of concern to individuals on sodium restricted diets.

Table 3  
 NJDWSC Water Quality Report – Continued

DETECTED SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS: Continued

Sulfate	PPM	250	8.23	Yes	
TDS	PPM	500	82	Yes	
Zinc	PPB	5000	4.6	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment and related questions for the PVWC system (PWSID 1605002) as well as the NJDWSC (PWSID 1613001), can be obtained by lodging onto NJDEP's source water assessment web site at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. If a system is rate 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 source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water system are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system lists the following susceptibility ratings as indicated in Table 4. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Table 4

Intake Susceptibility Ratings

Intakes	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radio-nuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC – 4 Surface Water	4-High	4-High	1 – Medium 3 - Low	4 - Medium	4-High	4-Low	4-Low	4-High
NJDWSC – 5 Surface Water	5-High	5-High	2 – Medium 3 - Low	5 - Medium	5-High	5-Low	5-Low	5-High

Table 5

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring – PVWC Source waters

Contaminant	Pompton River	Passaic River	Typical Source
Cryptosporidium, Oocysts/L	0 – 0.13	0 - .053	Microbial Pathogens found in surface water throughout the United States.
Giardia, Cysts/L	0 - 0.73	0 - .064	Microbial Pathogens found in surface water throughout the United States.
E.coli per 100 ml	ND – greater than 2419.2	ND – greater than 2419.2	Human and animal fecal waste.

Table 6

Additional Monitoring – 2006 Data

Contaminant	PVWC Intake	PVWC Plant Effluent
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), PPB	0.026	0.027
Perfluorooctanoic Sulfonate (PFOS), PPB	0 - 0.0062 Estimated Value	0 - 0.0049 Estimated Value

## General Notes

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the US. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. PVWC monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are 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 may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Table 6 presents data collected by the NJDEP as part of a preliminary study to determine the general occurrence of PFOA and PFOS in surface water in New Jersey. Currently there is no drinking water standard for these compounds. PVWC continues to participate in and support these types of regulatory and research efforts to maintain a position of leadership in cutting edge water treatment technology. Additional information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pfoa/index.htm>.

Iron and Manganese are secondary standards. A result of .42 mg/L was recorded in 2007. This was most likely the result of corrosion of iron pipes in the system. The Water Department has increased hydrant flushing to reduce the iron present in finished water.

Sodium – PVWC was above New Jersey's recommended upper limit (RUL) for Sodium. 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 may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Lead & Copper - The Borough of Elmwood Park collected over 30 samples from residences throughout the distribution system. The number reported is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or more correctly the highest sample reported for the 27<sup>th</sup> sample. All samples collected were in compliance with the action levels established by the NJDEP and USEPA. Please note the following;

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of material used in your homes plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your homes water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water can reduce the levels of lead. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line (800-426-4791).

The Borough of Elmwood Park is pleased to provide you this information along with the results compiled by the PVWC. Please note that Elmwood Park receives a blend of water from the PVWC and NJDWAC.

This booklet contains important information about the water in your community. Translate or speak to someone who understands it well.

El informe contiene informacion importante sobre calidad del agua en su comunidad. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

La relazione contiene importanti informazioni su la del qualita del acqua de la Comunita. Tradurlo o parfame con un amico che lo comprenda.

### Definitions

In the following table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms: we've provided the following definitions:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL	<u>Action Level</u> : The concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level</u> is the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in the drinking water. MCLs are set as close as to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</u> is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health MCLGs allow a margin of safety.
MRDL	<u>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</u> is the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	<u>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</u> the level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
Mrem/yr.	<u>Millirems per year</u> is a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
MFL	<u>Million fibers per liter</u> is a measure of the presence of Asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
NA	Not Applicable
ND	<u>Not Detected</u> is a term used when a laboratory analysis demonstrates that the constituent is not present.
NS	<u>No Standard</u>
NTU	<u>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit</u> is the measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity is excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
pCi/l	<u>Picocuries per liter</u> is a measure of radioactivity in water.
PPB	<u>Parts per billion</u> or micrograms per liter equals one part per billion and corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
POE	<u>Point of Entry</u> to the water distribution system
PPM	<u>Parts per Million</u> or milligrams per liter (mg/l) equals one part per million and corresponds to one minute in to years or a single penny in \$10,000.
RUL	<u>Recommended Upper Limit</u> : the highest level of a constituent of drinking water that is recommended in order to protect aesthetic quality.
SMCL	<u>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level</u> are Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste, or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.
TT	<u>Treatment Technique</u> is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.