

2024 Consumers' Water Quality Report (2023 Data)



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Overview

In 2023, Brick Utilities continued participation in the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water, a national initiative to help achieve operational excellence in surface water treatment. The Partnership is a voluntary cooperative effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AWWA and other drinking water organizations, with more than 200 surface water utilities throughout the United States.

Brick Utilities maintains a laboratory that is certified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The laboratory, which has operated continuously since 1975, is a key component of Brick Utilities Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program. The Authority conducts monitoring of its source water treatment process and finished water in excess of the number and types of tests that are required by state or federal regulations. The Authority believes that a comprehensive source water testing program is essential, considering that 74% of the water that is treated comes from the Metedeconk River. The river is fed by a 70-square mile watershed that is subject to both natural and manmade contamination, which can cause the quality of the source or untreated water to change.

Water Source

Brick Utilities treats approximately 3.0 billion gallons of water each year. In addition to water from the Metedeconk River and Brick Reservoir, the Authority draws water from high volume wells that tap into the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer. These wells are nearly 2,000 feet deep and are not influenced by surface phenomena. The Authority also draws a relatively small amount of water from the Cohansey Aquifer.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for the Brick Township MUA, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

Dear Valued Customer:

The Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority is pleased to present this summary of water quality delivered during 2023. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where Brick Utilities water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water treatment and testing are designed to prevent.

While this report details results from 2023, our residents and customers can get water quality information that is updated periodically by accessing our internet site at www.brickmua.com.

Brick Utilities is committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of drinking water to over 100,000 residents of northern Ocean County and Monmouth County. If you have any questions, please contact Brick Utilities at (732) 458-7000 Ext. 4208.

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.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you. Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Si no lo entiende, pídale a alguien que lo traduzca.

The source water assessment performed on our three sources determined the following:

SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS FOR BRICK TOWNSHIP MUA SOURCES

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	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—12		6	6	7		5		7	5	7		5	7	1	4	7	4	1		7	5	7	5	
GUDI—2	2			2						2			2			2				2		2		
Surface water intakes—1	1				1				1		1		1					1		1	1			

The table provides ratings of high (H), medium (M) or low (L) for each contaminant category. 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. NJDEP found the following potential contaminant sources within the source assessment areas for our sources: underground storage tanks, known contaminated sites, cemeteries, discharge to ground/surface water permits, storm sewer permits, and landfills. 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.gov or call (609) 292-5550.

Explanation of Violations

There were no violations.

Variances/Exemptions

The NJDEP has reduced monitoring for this water system for **2,4-D** to a triennial basis. The reduction in monitoring was based on four (4) consecutive quarters of samples with no detections.

Unregulated Contaminants

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Tory Bahnsen at 732-458-7000 ext. 4208 or tbahnsen@brickmua.com. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this noticed 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.

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The chart on the preceding page provides representative analytical results of water samples routinely collected through 2023 from your water system. Please note the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of 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.

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

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a 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 contamination.

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT (2023 Data) – BRICKTOWNSHIP MUA–PWSID# NJ1506001

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 care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to less the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Detected Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Brick Twp. MUA	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Health Effects Language
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform	N	1.00%	% Samples	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	Naturally present in the environment	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.
Turbidity(1)	N	0.08 Avg. 0.16 Max. 100% samples < 0.3 NTU	NTU	N/A	95% samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff	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 parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Barium	N	0.05 Max. range: 0.03–0.05	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Copper	N	90th percentile: 0.01 0 sites > AL	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Lead	N	90th percentile: 0.66 0 sites > AL	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	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 this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.67 Max. range: 0.11–0.67	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	STAGE 2 highest LRAA 25.3 range: 0.06–30.3	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection	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.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	STAGE2 highest LRAA 19.6 range: 0 –26.9	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Chloramine	N	highest annual avg: 1.48 range: 0.36–1.87	ppm	4MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia.
Chlorine	N	highest annual avg: 0.85 range: 0.01–1.25	ppm	4MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia.
PERFLUORINATED COMPOUNDS							
Perfluorooctanic Acid (PFOA)	N	highest RAA: 2.23 range: ND –10	ppt	---	14	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam	Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive systems. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	N	highest RAA: 0.70 range: ND –2.80	ppt	---	13	Discharge from industrial, chemical factories, release of aqueous film forming foam	Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects can persist through childhood.
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS: UCMRS							
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	N	highest RAA: 3.2 range: ND–3.2	ppt	-	CNR	Manmade chemical; used as a replacement for PFOS; used in the manufacture of paints, cleaning agents, and water- and stain-repellent products and coatings, including carpeting, carpet cleaners, floor wax and food packaging	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	N	highest RAA: 3.1 range: ND–3.1	ppt	-	CNR	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted

Notes for Table: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of water Quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants, and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Key To Table (above)

AL = Action Level
 CNR = Currently Not Regulated
 N/A = Not Applicable
 ND = None Detected

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
 MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
 MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
 MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

ppm = parts per million, or milligram per liter (mg/l)
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
 ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms
 LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average
 RAA = Running Annual Average

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may have been present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or resulting from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

(F) Radon, which is a 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.

(G) Disinfection By-Product Precursors, which are formed when disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

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. The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Brick Utilities 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, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Call us at (732) 458-7000 x 4208 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.

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.

LEAD: 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 this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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 materials used in your home plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance and Other Monitoring

Brick Utilities is active in protecting the environment and community, and the health and safety of customers is this Authority's highest priority. This Authority welcomes questions residents may have about Brick Utilities and the quality of water. For more information, call **Joseph Maggio, P.E.**, Director of Water Quality at **(732) 458-7000 Ext. 4208**. Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available on the internet at www.waterdata.com.