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# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

## The bottom line: Is the water safe to drink? ABSOLUTELY!

Dear Customer:

We are pleased to present a summary of the water quality provided to you in 2023 in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that treatment & testing are designed to prevent. The Hackettstown Municipal Utilities Authority (HMUA) is committed to providing the community with safe, clean drinking water.

We encourage public interest and participation in the decisions affecting the drinking water supply. The public is always welcome to attend the regular monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM at the HMUA Administration Building, 424 Hurley Drive, in Hackettstown. In order to promote the necessary social distancing to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, regular monthly meetings are also being held virtually. The public can join by following the link posted on [hmua.com](http://hmua.com), under "Meeting Information".

We hope that the information supplied in this report provides you with an understanding of the requirements and processes involved in delivering safe, clean drinking water to your home or business. Additional information is available on the HMUA website at [hmua.com](http://hmua.com). Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve your water needs.

## What is the source of HMUA's water supply?

During 2023, the HMUA distributed 791.194 million gallons of drinking water to customers.

**Ground Water** – Water passes through layers of soil and gravel which act as a natural filter. Chlorine is added to the well water to destroy any harmful bacteria. The HMUA water system had six ground water supply wells operational during 2023. Information on all wells is indicated below:

**Well #4 – Seber** – This well is a sand and gravel well located in Hackettstown at the end of Seber Road. The well has a pump capacity of 200 gallons per minute (GPM). During 2023 this well provided less than 1 percent of the water to the distribution system.

**Well #5 – Seber** - This well was completed in the Kittatinny Limestone formation and is located in Hackettstown at the end of Seber Road. The well has a pump capacity of 1,000 GPM. During 2023 this well provided 1 percent of the water supplied to the water distribution system.

**Well #6 – Heath** - This well was completed in the Kittatinny Limestone formation and is located in Washington Township along Schooley's Mountain Road in front of Heath Village. The well has a pump capacity of 700 GPM. During 2023 this well provided 1 percent of the water supplied to the water distribution system.

**Well #7 – Seber** - This well was completed in the Kittatinny Limestone formation and is located in Hackettstown at the end of Seber Road. The well has a pump capacity of 1,500 GPM. During 2023 this well provided 48 percent of the water supplied to the water distribution system.

**Well #8 – Claremont** – This well was completed in the Kittatinny Limestone formation and is located in Mansfield Township along Claremont Road. The well has a pump capacity of 800 GPM. During 2023 this well provided 13 percent of the water supplied to the water distribution system.

**Well #9 – Schooley's Mountain** - This well was completed in the Kittatinny Limestone formation and is located in Washington Township on Schooley's Mountain Road. This well has a capacity of 800 GPM. During 2023 this well provided 37 percent of the water supplied to the water distribution system. Orthophosphate chemical is added at this location to comply with USEPA and NJDEP lead and copper regulatory standards.

## Why are there Contaminants in 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 (800-426-4791). Information is also available on the USEPA Web Site at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

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. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, wildlife and sewage treatment plants.
- (B) **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, farming, mining or industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- (C) **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- (E) **Radioactive contaminants**, which can occur naturally or be the result of mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and NJDEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water.

## Customers with Compromised Immune Systems

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. Some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk of infection. Immuno-compromised 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Information is also available on the USEPA Web Site at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

\*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 this information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.82 (C.58 12A-12.4 et seq)).

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

*We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the HMUA or the quality of our water. Call 908-852-3622 and ask for Bud Volkert, Water Utility Superintendent.*

## 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 adults 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.

## Service Line Information

The State of New Jersey has required that all public community water systems provide an inventory of service line materials on both the utility and customer sides, and make that inventory available to the public. The HMUA has made individual service line information available through an interactive map on our website [www.hmua.com](http://www.hmua.com) under the "Service Line Information" tab.

## Notice of Level 1 Assessment

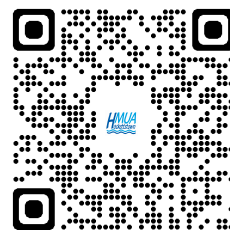
The HMUA is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The HMUA takes a minimum of 25 total coliform samples per month. The routine total coliform (TC) sample collected on 07/18/2023 and one (1) repeat sample collected on 07/20/2023 were positive for total coliform. Both of these samples were absent of E.coli. When two or more samples are positive for total coliform in a month a Level 1 Assessment is triggered by the NJDEP. The HMUA conducted this Assessment and determined that the sample point station should be disassembled, disinfected and flushed. The following month's samples tested negative for total coliform. **This Notices of Level 1 Assessment does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.**

## Trouble Paying Your Water Bill?

### Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program that provides emergency assistance to families experiencing hardship with their water bills. LIHWAP will be able to assist our customers who are behind on their drinking water and wastewater bills to help keep their water and wastewater service active.

To be eligible for LIHWAP assistance, applicants must be water/wastewater bill holders who are responsible for paying their water and sewer bills directly to the HMUA. Also, applicants' total gross household income must be at or below 60% of the state median Income (\$6,439 a month for a family of four). Scan the QR code of see our webpage: <https://hmua.com/news/2022/3/bill-paying-assistance-programs> for more information.



New Jersey residents can search the online database at [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org) to view a comprehensive listing of the State's energy programs.

# Water Quality Table – HMUA Water System (PWS ID#2108001)

**NOTE: HMUA TESTS ITS DRINKING WATER FOR OVER 110 CONTAMINANTS, AS REQUIRED BY USEPA AND NJDEP. THE PARAMETERS LISTED BELOW ARE THE ONLY CONTAMINANTS THAT TESTED ABOVE THE DETECTION LEVEL IN 2023. ALL OTHER CONTAMINANTS TESTED FOR WERE NOT DETECTED IN THE DRINKING WATER.**

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level	Range	Sources
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria</b>	MPN/100 ml	1 Positive Monthly Sample	ND	1	ND - 1	Naturally present in the environment.
One routine total coliform sample tested positive in July and the subsequent retest was positive for total coliform-- both samples were absent of E.coli. One routine total coliform sample tested positive December 2023. All repeat distribution system samples and raw (untreated) water supply samples were absent for Total Coliform and E. coli. The HMUA takes a minimum of 25 total coliform samples per month.						
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
<b>Copper</b>	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.198	0.175 - 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile; No sites exceeded the AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead</b>	ppm	AL = 0.015	0	0.039	0.004 - 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile; One site exceeded the AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nitrate</b>	ppm	10	10	3.5	ND – 3.5	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leachate from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Chlorine Residual &amp; Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
<b>Chlorine</b>	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.6	0.2 – 1.6	Water additive used to control microbes (disinfection).
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>	ppb	60	N/A	8.06	ND – 8.06	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</b>	ppb	80	N/A	10.24*	ND – 29.9	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. *Highest Rolling Annual Average

Contaminant	Unit	NJ MCL	Highest Detected Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Health Effects Language
<b>Barium</b>	ppm	2	0.029	Erosion of natural deposits: Discharge of drilling wastes: Discharge from metal refineries	The level of Barium is consistently below the health effect level. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years can experience an increase in blood pressure .
<b>Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)</b>	ppt	13	<1.86 Range: ND - <1.86	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.	Some people who drink water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver; kidney; immune system; or, in males, reproductive system. For females, drinking water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.
<b>Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)</b>	ppt	14	2.47 Range: ND - 2.47		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 male, reproductive system. 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.
<b>Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)</b>	ppt	13	2.89 Range: ND -2.89		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.

## An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated primary contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

**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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

*The data presented in this report is from sampling that was conducted in 2023, except as noted.*

## Variations and Exemptions

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. The HMUA water system received a monitoring waiver for synthetic organic chemicals. The waiver was granted after completion of an assessment of the vulnerability of the source water to contamination. A waiver for asbestos was also granted. There are no vulnerable sources of water supply and no asbestos cement pipe in the water distribution system.

## Key to Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

TT = Treatment Technique

ND = Not Detected

N/A = Not Applicable

## Health Effects

Although the level of the below contaminants are consistently below the health effect level (refer to Water Quality Table), the EPA requires that the following information be included in this report:

**Total Coliform Bacteria** - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

**Copper** -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** - 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. HMUA 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>. To determine if you have a lead service line, contact us at 908-852-3622.

**Nitrate** -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.

**Chlorine** -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.

**HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)** - Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)** - 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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Unregulated Contaminants

**Cryptosporidium:** Cryptosporidium is a microscopic protozoan parasite affecting the gastrointestinal tract of humans and animals. Spread of the organism can be by food, water or person-to-person. The HMUA has tested for and has never found Cryptosporidium in our treated water.

## Source Water Assessments

The NJDEP has completed and issued Source Water Assessment Report and Summaries for public water systems, which are available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/swap/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/swap/) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or [watersupply@dep.nj.gov](mailto:watersupply@dep.nj.gov). A summary of the Source Water Assessment Report\* is below.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Org Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproducts		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
<b>Wells-4</b>		4		4				2	2	3		1		1	3	3	1		2	2		1	3	

\* Source Water Assessment Report for Hackettstown MUA and Source Water Assessment Report for Hackettstown MUA – Diamond Hill Water System, Table 9: Susceptibility Rating for Drinking Water Sources, December 2004, by NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. Susceptibility ratings provided in the NJDEP's December 2004 reports include four of the HMUA's six current water supply wells. The above table does not include sources no longer in use.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination 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.

## Radon

Contaminant	Unit	Average	Range
Radon	pCi/L	579.54	ND – 1458.34
The most recent Radon testing was conducted in 1999.			

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source (1–2 percent) of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are relatively inexpensive. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

*For more information about the HMUA and your water and sewer utility services, visit our website at [www.hmua.com](http://www.hmua.com).*

## Assuring a Safe and Dependable Water Supply

The HMUA will continue to implement initiatives that ensure safe, clean drinking water now and in the future.

### Geographical Information System

The HMUA utilizes a Geographical Information System (GIS) program for the entire HMUA Service Area, which is a valuable tool in the planning, operation and maintenance of HMUA assets. It is also a valuable tool for Asset Management Planning, which is a requirement of the Water Quality Accountability Act enacted in 2017.

### Water Main Replacement Program

Since 1993, more than 92,000 feet of unlined cast iron water pipe has been replaced with new lined ductile iron water mains. The most recent phase was completed in the spring of 2019. The new water mains will greatly improve fire flows and delivered water quality for HMUA customers. The water system improvements have assisted the Town of Hackettstown in obtaining a Fire Suppression Delivery System Rating of 4, which places the Town of Hackettstown in the top 10 percent of all communities nationwide.

### Periodic Hydrant Flushing.

Annually the HMUA conducts a comprehensive water main and hydrant flushing program throughout the 100+ miles of the water distribution system. Hydrant flushing helps to remove any sediment from the water mains and assures consistent, good quality water. As part of the flushing process, every fire hydrant in the water system is operated to ensure that it will operate properly in the event of a fire. Hydrant flushing will be completed during the month of May 2024 and is also now a requirement of the Water Quality Accountability Act.