

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Hammonton Water Department Has Levels of Ethylene Dibromide Above Drinking Water Standards

Hammonton Water Department (the Town) violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On January 10, 2013, the Town received notice from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, that monitoring performed by the Town showed that our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Ethylene Dibromide (*also known as 1,2 dibromomethane*), during the 4th quarter of 2012. The standard for Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) is 0.05 ug/L pursuant to 40 CFR 141.61(c). During the period of 10-01-2012 to 12-31-2012 for sample point ID: WL001004 (Well #1), the value of EDB in a sample collected 10-16-2012 was 0.42 µg/L, which exceeds the MCL of 0.05 µg/L.

The table below provides the results of quarterly monitoring performed to date:

Reporting Period	Date	Quarterly Value (ug/l)	Running Annual Average (ug/l)
1 st quarter 2012	3/07/2012	0.25	
2 nd quarter 2012	4/18/2012	0.59	
3 rd quarter 2012	8/13/2012	0.39	
4 th quarter 2012	10/16/2012	0.42	0.41

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **You do not need to boil your water** 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.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, some people who drink water containing EDB in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, stomach, reproductive system, or kidneys, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

EDB can be released during the use, storage, and transport of leaded gasoline, as well as during any spills; from its former use as a pesticide; wastewater and emissions from processes and waste waters of the chemical industries that use it. When soil and climatic conditions are favorable, EDB may get into drinking water by runoff into surface water or by leaching into ground water.

What is being done?

The Town's water system is comprised of the following wells:

- Wells #1 and #3
- Well #4
- Wells #5 and #7

On December 6, 2012, the Town installed a carbon filtration treatment unit for removal of EDB at Well #1, our primary use well. Operational testing performed on 12/06/2012, 12/17/2012 and 12/26/2012 demonstrate that the treatment process is effective in removing EDB. Well #3 is our other well in use. The Town is required to monitor both wells for EDB on a quarterly basis, Well #1 due to the installation of the treatment unit, and Well #3 to further assess EDB concentrations. It is important to note since the carbon filtration system was installed, the levels of EDB at Well #1 are in compliance with the safe drinking water standard.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has indicated that the carbon filter treatment unit may be eligible for 100% funding from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund Program and application has been made to this agency to reimburse the Town for the immediate action plan implemented to date.

Status of the Town's other Supply Wells

Well #4 was taken off-line following the 2012 summer season (September 28, 2012).

The schedule for remediation of elevated Radium at Well #4 is anticipated to occur by June 1, 2013.

Wells #5 and #7 were taken off-line during September 2011 and remain inactive due to the presence of Gross Alpha and Radium. It is not the intent to reactivate these wells until the radium treatment has been installed. Construction commenced on this project on September 19, 2012 and it is anticipated that this project will be completed by February 15, 2013.

For more information, please contact the Water Department at (609) 567-4331. This notice is being sent to you by the Hammonton Water Department.

Please share this information with all the 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.

This notice is being sent to you by Hammonton Water Department.

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