

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**South Harrison Elementary School**  
**For the Year 2024, Results from 2023**

**PWSID # NJ (0816300)**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

You can also refer to the EPA web-site at [www.epa.gov/ccr](http://www.epa.gov/ccr) for any updates or for downloading the CCR guidance document. It should also be noted that New Jersey regulates some volatile organic compounds and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs), which are not regulated at the federal level and certain volatile organic compounds at more stringent levels than at the federal level.

Our source is a ground water well that draws their water from the Raritan Aquifer.

The source water assessment performed on our 1 source determined the following:

**South Harrison Elementary School**

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/watersupply/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/swap) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. The source water assessment performed on our sources from determined the following:

PWS ID #0816300 SOUTH HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			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
Sources																								
Wells – 1			X		X			X		X					X	X				X			X	
GUDI – 0																								
Surface water Intakes - 0																								

The table above illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that are rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals, and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds, and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Radon:** 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.

**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

**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.**

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our licensed operator (Jacob Lynch, Environmental and Technical Services LLC at (609) 861-7000). We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

South Harrison Elementary School routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The 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, and can 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 result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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, 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.

### DEFINITIONS

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

No Detection (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present. The constituent(s) may still be represented in the table below as they are ones included regardless of detection. Not all undetected constituents are necessarily included in the table(s) below.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Part per trillion (ppt) or Nanogram per liter (ng/L) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a 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 - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) - Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste, or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

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 lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

TABLE OF DETECTED EPA/NJ REGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants:</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0 Positive Quarterly Samples (ND)	col/100ml	0	1 Positive quarterly sample	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Copper	N	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile Sampled on 09/25/2023 0.574 mg/L	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	N	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile Sampled on 09/25/2023 0.0 mg/L (ND)	ppm	0	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

There were other contaminants that were tested in 2023, including nitrate and Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAs: PFOS, PFNA, & PFOA). These contaminant results were not included in the table above as the results of which were undetectable.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals (SOC). Our system received a monitoring waiver for asbestos and has been granted a SOC waiver for the 2020-2022 compliance period. We expect to receive a SOC waiver for the current compliance period upon NJDEP determination.

Health effects language:

Microbiological Contaminants:

(1) Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

(2) Alpha emitters. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

- (3) Combined Radium 226/228. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) PFAS. PFAS can be found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor wear. PFAS cannot be boiled out of water. If tap or well water is found to contain PFAS people may choose to use home water filters or bottled water for drinking and cooking. The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA or PFOS are elevated in drinking water.

As you can see from the table, our system had no violations. **We are proud that your drinking water still consistently meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.** We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet ALL regulatory requirements.

When the state issues water restrictions, South Harrison Elementary School asks everyone to adhere to the state regulations. If you have any drought related questions you can contact a drought hotline representative at 1-800-448-7379 or visit the New Jersey drought website at [www.NJDrought.org](http://www.NJDrought.org).

**MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

**Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 PPM is a risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

**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. We are 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>. *Call us at 609-861-7000 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 Woman, Nursing Mothers, and Others:**

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the drinking water than 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 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 case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jacob Lynch of Environmental and Technical Services LLC at (609) 861-7000.

**We at South Harrison Elementary School work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.**