

Dear Water Customers,

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Sussex Borough Water Utility received a Notice of Non-Compliance for pH entering the water system. This event occurred on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Because of this, a Public Notification form was required to be mailed to all Borough water customers. Although the notification states that the system incurred a “violation”, there was never any issue with the quality of the drinking water at any time. This notice is in reference to reporting violation only. Residents should be rest assured that there is no cause for concern.

Water quality samples are required to be taken every 14 days to comply with the NJDEP’s Lead and Copper regulations. One parameter that is tested for is drinking water pH. pH determines the acidity or basicity of the water in a range from 0 to 14 units, with 7.0 units being neutral. The Sussex water system is required to maintain pH between 7.4 and 8.4 units on a regular basis, and if the pH level is outside of this range for more than 9 consecutive days, the water could be more susceptible to corrosion of household plumbing. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the recorded pH was 7.32 units at the time of sampling, but it returned to the required levels within a few hours.

Since the required samples are reported every fourteen (14) days, the December 19<sup>th</sup> sample was recorded for that entire period by NJDEP, which exceeded the 9 consecutive day requirement. pH samples are also taken at the treatment plant on a daily basis, and the records indicate that it returned to normal within the next 24-hour period. However, since the plant readings are not mentioned in the Water Quality Parameter Sampling Plan, the daily readings could not be used for compliance purposes. The Borough is amending the Sampling Plan to include the daily readings as a reportable source moving forward. This will guarantee that the water system will always remain in compliance moving forward. As an added note, the water is also treated with a corrosion inhibitor to aid in any corrosion within household plumbing.

Again, there is no reason for concern regarding the quality of your water. Water quality continues to be maintained well within all regulatory requirements. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Borough office and you will be connected to someone who can give additional details regarding this incident.

Very truly yours,

John Perry  
Licensed Operator