

FINAL (EDB ONLY) – 3rd Qtr 2012

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 October 12, 2012, 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*), in several instances. The standard for Ethylene Dibromide is 0.05 ug/L pursuant to 40 CFR 141.61(c).

Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) was found in our water supply on the following dates:

During the period of **01-01-2012 to 03-31-2012** for sample point ID: WL001004 (Well #1), the value of EDB in a sample collected 03-07-2012 was 0.25 µg/L which exceeds the MCL of 0.05 µg/L.

During the period of **04-01-2012 to 06-30-2012** for sample point ID: WL001004, the value for EDB in a sample collected 04-18-2012 was 0.59 µg/L which exceeds the MCL of 0.05 µg/L.

During the period of **07-01-2012 to 09-30-2012** for sample point ID: WL001004, the value for EDB in a sample collected 08-13-2012 was 0.39 µg/L which exceeds the MCL of 0.05 µg/L.

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

The Town has implemented a quarterly monitoring program to test the raw water at each well before it enters our finished water storage tank to evaluate the presence of EDB. Since Well #1 and #3 are located at the same complex (Lincoln Street), the treatment system for EDB will be placed in a location that will potentially service both wells as a precaution, even though the levels of EDB at Well #3 have not exceeded the MCL. The type of equipment that will be necessary to remove this contaminant is known as a carbon filter.

Accordingly, the Administrative Consent Order with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection that was recently amended to address other water compliance issues such as elevated gross alpha activity and radium levels will again be amended to establish a compliance schedule for the remediation of EDB in Well #1. Currently, the Town has initiated the installation of an immediate solution to the problem by installing temporary and portable treatment units that will address the levels detected. It is expected that the treatment system will be operative on or about December 3, 2012.

Lastly, the NJDEP has indicated that the carbon filter treatment unit can be eligible for 100% funding from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund Program and application will be made to this agency so that immediate action can be instituted for the design, permitting and installation of the appropriate equipment.

Status of the Town's Supply Wells

Well #4 has been a primary source of supply since the end of the 2011 summer season. Following the 2012 summer season (September 28, 2012), Well #4 was taken off-line and system demand was supplied by Wells #1 and #3 primarily. Due to the collective impacts on the Town's well system, the primary well in use will be Well #3, followed by Well #1 and if necessary under emergency circumstances, activation of Well #4 in that order.

The schedule for Well #4 radium remediation requires full scale activity after Wells #5 and #7 have been returned to service which is anticipated on or before June 1, 2013.

Wells #5 and #7 were essentially shut down from September 2011 and currently 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 prior to the start of next summer. 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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Date distributed: _____.