

What you should know about this letter

Dear Resident,

Attached is a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection generic letter that is required by the NJDEP/ EPA for a violation with an Optimum Water Quality Parameter we have recently been required to meet. The Optimum Water Quality Parameter is obtained through the addition of Ortho Phosphate into the water as a corrosion control. Even though this chemical is safe to use, Belmar Water Department believes it is not necessary for its application, due to the hardness of our water and the natural coating of the pipes from Calcium and Magnesium salts that are naturally occurring in the soils that surround the aquifer that is present in the water.

Corrosion control is used to prevent the leaching of metals (coating of the pipe with a film) from the metallic piping in Belmar's distribution piping, into the drinking water, specifically Lead. The Borough of Belmar has been sampling for lead and copper for more than 30 years and has always been under the Action Level (.015 mg/L) by a considerable amount. In most cases it is 0.0 (non-detect). Action Level is the level at which action is required by a water utility. The Action Level is 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (0.015 mg/L).

On July 1, 2022, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) required all water utilities in New Jersey to meet the new Optimum Water Quality Parameters set forth. The Borough of Belmar Water Department is required to have a minimum of 0.2 mg/L in the treatment plant and a 0.15 mg/l in the distribution system.

As you can see below, a sample that was taken on April 25, 2023 had a reading of 0.15 mg/L in the treatment plant (0.2 mg/L minimum is required) which is 0.05 mg/L below the minimum required by NJDEP. This has triggered a mandatory public notice (Tier 2).

Analyte Name		Minimum Required amount	Results	Difference
Treatment Plant	pH	> 7.0	7.4	
	Ortho - Phosphate	0.2 mg/l	0.15 mg/L	(0.05 mg/L)
Distribution System	pH	> 7.0	7.3	
	Ortho - Phosphate	1.06 mg/L	0.15 mg/L	0.91 mg/L

On April 25, 2023, Borough of Belmar's Water Department employees, while doing their routine assessment of the operation, found that one of four chemical feed pumps was not pumping. The Borough of Belmar's Water Department employees replaced the

pump with a new one (stock). They continued to work on the broken chemical feed pump (replacing the check valve) until it was repaired and placed back on the shelf for future replacement. This chemical feed pump was out of service for approximately 3 – 4 hours.

We apologize for sending out this letter (required by NJDEP) but as you can see, every effort was made to get the chemical pump back in service immediately to keep the Borough of Belmar in compliance. The Borough of Belmar's Water Department checks the calibration of all chemical pumps twice daily. Due to the asset management program, that we follow, we were able to find a problem and fix it immediately.

If you have any questions about this notice or your water quality, please contact the Borough of Belmar's Water Department at 732 – 681- 3700.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Belmar Fails to Meet Established Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water requirement, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

Contact Cory Willchinski at 732-681-3700 x765 or cwillchinski@belmar.com for questions or to obtain a translated copy of this public notice.

Our water system has corrosion control treatment installed to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. The corrosion control treatment was deemed optimized; and therefore, the New Jersey department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established optimal Water Quality Parameters (WQP) values, which are values the corrosion control treatment functions most effectively. We monitor for WQP values per federal regulations.

During the 6-month monitoring period, January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, monitoring period, our WQP sample results did not meet the optimal WQP values set by the NJDEP for 14 days, and the water system cannot be below the minimum level(s) or outside the range(s) set by the NJDEP for more than nine (9) days.

In addition to monitoring optimal WQP values, our water system routinely monitors for lead and copper. The most recent monitoring conducted January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, demonstrated we are in compliance with the Federal action levels for lead and copper. If there is a lead action level exceedance, you will be notified accordingly. In fact, the past 30 years, our water system has never had an action level exceedance.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. This violation does not mean there is confirmed lead and/or copper in your drinking water. However, since corrosion control treatment is used to protect residents from lead and copper potentially leaching from internal pipes and solder, it is important to be aware of the health effects of lead and copper and steps you may take to reduce your exposure.

- 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.
- 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 physician.

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 your drinking water.

Typically, lead and/or copper enters drinking water by leaching from pipes and plumbing components in homes and/or buildings. We have treatment installed to reduce the wearing away of lead and/or copper leaching from pipes and plumbing components into the water and optimal WQP values set to ensure effectiveness of the treatment. Failure to meet the set values requires us to evaluate the currently installed treatment and operation thereof and take actions necessary to meet the optimal WQP values.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternate water supply (e.g., bottled water). However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Additionally, if you would like to reduce your potential exposure to lead and/or copper in drinking water, you may choose to take the following steps:

- Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours.

- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

For additional steps you may take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, see <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>.

What is being done?

We anticipate resolving the problem within 180 days. Updates will be provided every three months until the violation has been resolved.

For more information, please Contact Cory Willchinski at 732-681-3700 x765 or cwillchinski@belmar.com

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 Belmar Water Department State Water System ID#:NJ1306001
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