



December 3, 2020

## An Important Water Quality Update

Today, you may have received an email from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) regarding the detection of 1,4-dioxane in the Delaware River, as well as in the Delaware and Raritan Canal. We want to provide you with more information about this issue.

Providing safe and reliable water service is New Jersey American Water's business and the basis of customer trust. We are recognized as an industry leader and work cooperatively with the US EPA and the NJ DEP so that implementation of existing drinking water standards and development of new regulations will produce benefits for our customers. We take seriously our responsibility as your trusted water provider, and our water quality record shows we meet or surpass state and federal regulations.

In addition to the required monitoring for regulated compounds, New Jersey American Water monitors both raw water sources and our finished water for several emerging compounds, beyond what is required by the NJ DEP. In April 2020, we reported to the NJ DEP that we detected trace amounts of 1,4-dioxane in the Delaware River. 1,4-dioxane is a manmade chemical that is found in many consumer products such as laundry detergents, deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics.

Currently, water systems are not required to test for or remove this chemical if it is found, and there is no nationwide or state maximum contaminant level (MCL) in effect for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water. NJ DEP's Drinking Water Quality Institute has studied 1,4-dioxane and is in the process of developing a recommendation for setting an MCL of 0.33 parts per billion (ppb). For context, 1 part per billion is roughly the equivalent of one second in 31.5 years.

According to NJ DEP, it is important to note that MCLs are set using health-protective approaches and assumptions based on lifetime exposure. The 1,4-dioxane sampling results in the Delaware River near the Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Plant do not present an immediate concern. New Jersey American Water has extensive experience with successful treatment of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater sources, and the advanced treatment processes in our Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Plant have been able to eliminate most of the 1,4-dioxane from the source water.

In response to the recent sampling results in the Delaware River and in anticipation of this upcoming regulation, New Jersey American Water has been evaluating additional treatment for its Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Plant. Preliminary work to install this treatment is already underway, and full treatment is planned for completion in 2021.

We continue to monitor the raw and finished water and are sharing our results with the NJ DEP for further investigation into the possible sources. NJ DEP continues to investigate known contaminated sites, potential industrial sources and regulated wastewater discharges throughout NJ watersheds to mitigate environmental releases of 1,4-dioxane. NJ DEP is also working with partner agencies across state borders to address potential sources of 1,4-dioxane that could impact NJ drinking water sources.

As a valued community leader and customer, we want you to be aware of our plans so that we may answer any questions you or your constituents may have. We have created a [fact sheet](#) for additional background, and the [NJ DEP also created a microsite](#) with additional facts.

If you have questions or wish to discuss this further, please reach out to David Mayer, Director of Government Affairs, at [david.mayer@amwater.com](mailto:david.mayer@amwater.com), or David Forcinito, Senior Director of South Operations, at [david.forcinito@amwater.com](mailto:david.forcinito@amwater.com). Thank you.

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