

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Ridgewood Water Has Levels of Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently experienced a drinking water standard violation for arsenic at one of the 51 wells that supply water to the system. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

### What happened?

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On May 9, 2011, we received notice that a water sample collected from one of our wells on March 8, 2011 had an arsenic concentration that exceeds the New Jersey standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic. The New Jersey standard for arsenic is 5 parts per billion or ppb. The average level of arsenic in this single well over the last year of sampling was 5.75 ppb. None of the samples collected from this well exceeded the federal MCL of 10 ppb.

Note that the elevated result was obtained from only one of the 51 active supply wells. The remaining wells, plus water purchased from United Water, exhibited arsenic levels below the New Jersey MCL. Arsenic is a naturally-occurring substance in groundwater in the Ridgewood area. Samples collected in May 2011 show that the reported laboratory results may have overstated the actual concentration.

### 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 arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### What is being done?

Ridgewood Water has turned off this well while we investigate the situation. We have collected additional samples and anticipate resolving the arsenic issue at this well within 2 months.

For more information, please contact Mr. Steve Florence at 201-670-5526 or at 131 N Maple Ave, Ridgewood, NJ 07451.

*\*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 Ridgewood Water. State Water System ID#: 0251001.

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