

# Rockaway Borough Water Department (PWSID#: NJ1434001)

21-25 Union Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

## Year 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

### WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER?

The Borough of Rockaway is proud to supply you with this year's Water Quality Report required by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The tables in this report show the results of our water quality analysis in the year 2023. Every regulated contaminant detected in the water, even in the minutest traces, is listed. The table contains the name of each highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), usual sources of such contamination, definitions that explain what was tested, and a key to the units of measurement. The data tables in this report show only the substances detected in your water; other substances may have been tested and not detected.

**The Borough of Rockaway received no violations in 2023.** The EPA requires monitoring for over 80 drinking water contaminants. The contaminants listed in the table on the next page reflect only the contaminants detected in your water for the monitoring period January 1 to December 31, 2023. Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### SOURCES OF SUPPLY

The Borough of Rockaway draws its water from three (3) groundwater wells, as well as one (1) backup well that draws from the Quaternary Aquifer in the Upper Rockaway Watershed. We utilize air stripping, activated carbon filtration, and disinfection, and deliver the treated water to 3,026 homes and businesses, including portions of Rockaway Township and Denville.

### GENERAL DRINKING WATER INFORMATION:

#### Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Biological* - may come from human, agricultural, or wildlife sources.
- *Inorganic* - can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- *Pesticides and herbicides* - may come from agricultural, storm run-off or residential use.
- *Organic chemicals* - may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive materials* - can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

#### Presence of Contaminants

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

#### Immuno-Compromised Persons

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practical, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premise, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq).

### ROCKAWAY BOROUGH WATER QUALITY TABLE

Contaminant	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected via # of Samples	Unit of Measurement	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	MCLG (Goal)	Potential Source
<b>Nitrate</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	1.9 1 Sample	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b> Test Results Year: 2021	N	5.6 <b>(90<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b> Range of Results: ND-9.3	ppb	15 (Action Limit)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
<b>Copper</b> Test Results Year: 2021	N	0.09 <b>(90<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b> Range of Results: ND-0.18	ppm	1.3 (Action Limit)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
<b>Barium</b> Test Results Year: 2021	N	0.02 1 Sample	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chromium</b> Test Results Year: 2021	N	0.65 1 Sample	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nickel</b> Test Results Year: 2021	N	1.7 1 Sample	ppb	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits; found in in the earth's crust
<b>THM</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Average: 19 Range of Results: 17 – 21	ppb	80	N/A	Disinfectant Byproducts
<b>HAA5</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Average: 2.5 Range of results: 2 – 3	ppb	60	N/A	Disinfectant Byproducts
<b>PFNA</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Highest RAA: ND Range of Results: ND – ND 4 Samples	ppt	13	N/A	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
<b>PFOA</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Highest RAA: 8 Range of Results: 5 – 10 4 Samples	ppt	14	N/A	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam
<b>PFOS</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Highest RAA: 3 Range of Results: 3 – 4 4 Samples	ppt	13	N/A	Discharge from industrial, chemical factories, release of aqueous film forming foam
<b>Chlorine Residual</b> Test Results Year: 2023	N	Average: 0.36 Range of Results: 0.1 – 0.98	ppm	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	Water additive used to control microbes

**Special note regarding Lead: Call us at (973) 627-2000 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.**

## Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	Unit of Measurement	RUL	Potential Source
Chloride (2021)	240	1 sample	ppm	250	Naturally Occurring
Hardness (2021)	183	1 sample	ppm	250	Naturally Occurring
Sodium (2023)	<b>90</b>	<b>84 - 95</b>	ppm	50	Naturally Occurring
Sulfate (2021)	18	1 sample	ppm	250	Naturally Occurring
Total Dissolved Solids (2021)	226	1 sample	ppm	500	Naturally Occurring

**Special note regarding Sodium: For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.**

### Waivers

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organics, and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs). The Borough of Rockaway has received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

### How to read this report:

Word, Acronym, Symbol or Note	Definition
Y/N	Yes/No
AL	Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
N/A	Not applicable
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
ND	Not detected
pCi/L	The curie is a unit of radioactivity. This is measured as Picocuries Per Liter.
ppb	Parts per billion. Means 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as micrograms per liter) and correspond to 1 penny in \$10 million.
ppm	Parts per million. Means 1 part per 1,000,000 parts (same as milligrams per liter) and corresponds to 1 penny in \$10,000.
ppt	Parts per trillion. Means 1 part per 1,000,000,000,000 parts (same as nanograms per liter) and corresponds to 1 penny in \$10 billion.
RUL	Recommended Upper Limit
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

**Health Effects of Detected Contaminants:**

**Barium:** Barium is a naturally occurring ore used in a variety of manufactured goods. The EPA has found that in some people, short exposure to Barium in exceedance of the MCL can cause gastrointestinal disturbances and muscle weakness. Long term exposure to barium at levels above the MCL may cause high blood pressure.

**Chloride:** Chloride occurs naturally in water and is monitored as a secondary contaminant. Secondary contaminants are aesthetic (taste and odor) rather than health risks; however, in high concentrations sulfate can cause Diarrhea in some people.

**Chlorine:** Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

**Chromium:** Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

**Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids):** Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Hardness:** Water hardness is the traditional measure of the capacity of water to react with soap and producing lather. Hard water often produces a noticeable deposit of precipitate (e.g. insoluble metals, soaps or salts) in containers, including “bathtub ring”.

**Lead:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Borough of Rockaway is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Nickel:** Some people who drink water containing nickel in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver effects.

**Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

**PFNA (Perfluorononanoic Acid):** Some people who drink water containing perfluorononanoic acid in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, immune system; or in males, reproductive system. For females, drinking water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.

**PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid):** Some people who drink water containing perfluorooctanoic acid in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive system. Drinking water containing perfluorooctanoic acid in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing perfluorooctanoic acid in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.

**PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid):** Some people who drink water containing perfluorooctanesulfonic acid in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing perfluorooctanesulfonic acid in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects can persist through childhood.

**Secondary Contaminant:** These parameters do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

**Sodium:** Naturally occurring mineral. Sodium is essential for good health. Certain medical conditions, however, require sodium intake monitoring. Excessive sodium can adversely affect high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes. Contact your physician for further information.

**Sulfate:** Sulfate occurs naturally in water and is monitored as a secondary contaminant. Secondary contaminants are aesthetic (taste and odor) rather than health risks; however, in high concentrations sulfate can cause Diarrhea in some people.

**THMs (Trihalomethanes):** Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Total Dissolved Solids:** (TDS) in drinking water is not a health hazard. The recommended upper limit has been established based on the aesthetic properties of water. Water high in TDS may taste salty or brackish. High TDS may also indicate that other ions naturally present in water may be above established regulatory levels.

### Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued a Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for the Borough of Rockaway public water system which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550.

The table below illustrates the susceptibility rating for each individual source for each of the contaminant categories at this water system. NJDEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens. For the purpose of the Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. If the system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean that a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, NJDEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings. If you have questions regarding the source water assessment report or summary, please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply) or 609-252-5550.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-Nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors			
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Wells - 3		3		3				1	2	3				3			3			3			3		
GUDI- 0																									
Surface Water Intakes - 0																									

Susceptibility ratings for a public water system are based on the potential for a contaminant to be:

- At or above 50% of the Drinking Water Standard (MCL) = **(H) High**
- Between 10 and 50% of the Drinking Water Standard (MCL) = **(M) Medium**
- Less than 10% of the Drinking Water Standard (MCL) = **(L) Low**

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, and are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call 800-648-0394.

**(DBPs) Disinfectant Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when other disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

## SECURITY

Our utility has made every effort to secure its facilities from local vandalism as well as terrorist incidents. If you have any security concerns, such as: someone utilizing a fire hydrant; calls upon your home without proper identification; or, a suspicious person around our facilities, please contact us at 1-973-627-2000 or the Rockaway Borough Police Department at 1-973-627-1314.

If you have any questions about this report or about the operations of the Water Utility, please call Brian Shatzel, Licensed Water Operator, at (973)627-2000. We want our customers to be fully informed about our Water Utility. If you would like further information, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings. These meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Community Center on Union Street.

## Water Emergency Information

For Water Emergency information go to: "Rockaway Borough Police Facebook."

**Our constant commitment is to supply you with a dependable, healthy source of drinking water.**

## ***OUR ENVIRONMENT. CONSERVE WATER***

*This Water Quality Report was prepared for Rockaway Borough Water Department by:*

