

East Windsor MUA Water Quality Q & A

This is to help clarify a recent letter that you have received regarding Gross Alpha in your drinking water. This notification is only to make you, the consumer, aware of its possible presence in one of our wells. ***At no time was there a health risk to the public present in the water.***

1) Is the water safe to drink?

Answer – Yes, East Windsor MUA shut the well down immediately upon notification of Gross Alpha in the water from the state certified lab who analyzed the sample.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studied the health risks associated with Gross Alpha. In their analysis, the EPA used an estimate, generally considered to be extremely conservative. In the EPA's analysis, the level of risk is reached by people who drink 2 liters, (about a half a gallon) of water every day for 70 years to increase the health risk by 1% - 2%.

2) At any time, was there ever a health risk to the consumer?

Answer – No. East Windsor MUA acted immediately by shutting off the well. This well will stay off permanently.

3) Is there still Gross Alpha in my water?

Answer - No. That well was shut off. East Windsor MUA has increased its sampling, of the water, above what is required by EPA/NJDEP. **All the results have been non-detect, which means there is no Gross Alpha in your drinking water.**

4) Why did I receive a letter in the mail about Gross Alpha in the water?

Answer – This notification is only to make you, the consumer, aware of the possible presence of Gross Alpha in one of our seven wells. East Windsor MUA is regulated by the EPA/NJDEP. East Windsor MUA is required to monitor the water quality through sampling of its water treatment plants, ground water wells and distribution system (water mains). East Windsor MUA is required to sample for Gross Alpha among other pollutants.

East Windsor MUA has never detected any pollutants in any of its seven wells. Recently, East Windsor MUA had a sample that detected Gross Alpha in one of its wells which exceeded the MCL (15 pico curries) for Gross Alpha. **Once the Gross Alpha was detected, East Windsor MUA shut down the well immediately and isolated it from the drinking water.**

5) What is Gross Alpha?

Answer – It is a naturally occurring radioactive substances that can be found, at some level, in almost all rocks and soils. These naturally occurring radioactive elements emit alpha particles as they decay. Alpha radiation exists in the soil, in the air, and also in water.

6) What is East Windsor MUA doing to mitigate the Gross Alpha in this well?

Answer – **East Windsor MUA has shut down the well and water treatment plant associated with the Gross Alpha. This water treatment plant will remain shut down indefinitely. East Windsor MUA has increased its sampling of the well water, above what is required by EPA/NJDEP, not only for this water treatment plant but all water treatment plants.** This particular well was used very little. It is only used during the summer months, late at night when irrigation (lawn sprinklers) is being used. East Windsor MUA has increased the usage of its other water treatment plants to maintain water supply.

7) What is pico curries and how big is it?

Answer - **A picocurie is one trillionth of a curie.** To put the relative size of one trillionth into perspective, consider that if the Earth were reduced to one trillionth of its diameter, the "Pico Earth" would be smaller in diameter than a speck of dust. In fact, it would be six times smaller than the thickness of a human hair.

8) Should I install a water filter in my home?

Answer – No. A filter is not necessary and will not remove Gross Alpha. Please call East Windsor MUA if you are thinking on installing a water filtration system.

East Windsor MUA continues to be proactive and through its capital / asset management plan, determined that a new water treatment plant would be needed, to continue maintaining good quality water and meet the future needs of East Windsor Township. Two new wells have been drilled (2021/2022) and a new water treatment plant is being designed.

East Windsor MUA is committed to the health and safety of its customers. We are also committed to being transparent, especially when it comes to your drinking water.

East Windsor MUA will be sending out future notices within the next couple of months, making you aware of the continued sampling results of your drinking water.

As Always, the East Windsor MUA's commitment for good, clean, affordable water, and exceptional customer service is our number one priority.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us at 609-443-6000 Ext. 7600, 7601, 7602 & 7603