

UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP WATER TESTS HIGH FOR NITRATES

The quarterly water testing again showed higher than expected nitrate levels have been found in the Municipal water system, originating at the Love Lane water plant, for samples taken on October 2, 2018 prompting the utility to issue a drinking water warning to its customers. The notice directs users of the system *to avoid giving the water to infants under 6 months old and to refrain from using the water to make infant formulas. Adults and children over six months old are not at risk and the water may be used for bathing, cooking and drinking. Pregnant women or those with specific health concerns are urged to consult with their doctor.*

Test results on October 2nd showed that nitrate levels were measured at 11.9 ppm (parts per million) Federal and State drinking water standards set the maximum contaminant level at 10 ppm.. Confirmation testing results on October 3rd were 10.0 ppm for an average of 10.95ppm.

Warning notices are being delivered to all users of the water system served by the Love Lane facility. The areas affected are those located south of Big Oak Road in the eastern portion of the township and south of Finley Road in the central and western portions. Areas north of these locations are supplied by the Seabrook treatment plant.

Notices will be posted at local restaurants, day care centers, and medical offices. **If your pediatrician is not local and you are a water customer please inform him/her of this notice. They are welcome to call us for more information.**

The Township is providing bottled water to its customers who have or care for infants within the affected area. The water is available at the Upper Deerfield Municipal Building, 1325 Hwy 77 in Seabrook. Water will be provided to day care centers in the Township who are connected to the public water supply.

Several options are being investigated to correct the problem. The well producing the highest nitrate levels was shut down on July 7th 2018. A new test well has been drilled and we are awaiting results of the nitrate levels. We are also exploring designs for a nitrate removal treatment facility. Ongoing testing will determine the duration of this warning and upon approval of the NJDEP, we will issue a “problem corrected” notice.

The notice and a fact sheet about nitrates are posted on the Upper Deerfield Township Website.

We apologize for the inconvenience this issue is creating. Nitrates are common in farming areas and levels do fluctuate. In this instance the levels exceeded the MCL and the notice is mandatory.

Please call 856-451-3811 with any questions or concerns you have.

Upper Deerfield Township Water Department
October 4, 2018