

## How to Contact Us

The Perth Amboy water system is owned by the City of Perth Amboy and managed and operated by Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc., a subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company.

If you have questions about this report, would like more information about your water quality and/or opportunities for public participation in decisions about our drinking water, please call Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations at (732) 826-5335. You may also write to USA-PA at: Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc., P.O. Box 167, Iselin, NJ 08830. Additional information about drinking water regulatory programs may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Ensuring Water Quality

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and the DEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Source Water Assessment Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has implemented the Source Water Assessment Program, available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550. A summary of this report to study existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water sources in the state is found below.

### Suceptivity Chart Definitions

**Pathogens** – Organisms such as bacteria and viruses.  
**Nutrients** – Compounds such as phosphorus and nitrogen that aid in the growth of organisms.  
**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** – Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers and gasoline components such as MTBE.  
**Pesticides** – Man-made chemicals used to control pests and weeds such as Atrazine.  
**Inorganics** – Mineral-based, man-made and naturally occurring, compounds such as arsenic and nitrates.  
**Radionuclides** – Radioactive, man-made and naturally occurring, substances such as radium and uranium.  
**Radon** – Naturally occurring gas.  
**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors** – Naturally occurring organic matter, mainly in surface waters, that when combined with disinfectants such as chlorine produce unwanted byproducts.

A public water system's susceptibility rating (Low, Medium or High) is a combination of two factors:

- How sensitive the water supply is to potential contamination.
- How often a contaminant is used or exists near the source water.

The ratings are based on the potential for a contaminant to be at or above 50% of the MCL (High), between 10% and 50% of the MCL (Medium) and less than 10% of the MCL (Low).

DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore, all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of the Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for groundwater than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

**If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean 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, the DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

## Susceptibility Ratings for the Perth Amboy Water System

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for each contaminant category for each source in the system. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

Parameter	1 Well	5 Wells Under Influence of Surface Water
Pathogens	Medium	High – 5
Nutrients	Medium	High – 3 Medium – 2
Pesticides	Low	Medium – 1
VOCs	High	High – 4 Medium – 1
Inorganics	Medium	High – 5
Radionuclides	High	High – 4 Medium – 1
Radon	Low	Medium – 5
Disinfection Byproduct Precursors	Medium	High – 5

For more information about our water sources, please contact Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. at (732) 826-5335. We can all play a role in protecting our water sources by disposing of waste such as motor oil, paint and household cleaners, and limiting the use of fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides. Contact the local Public Works Department for proper household hazardous waste disposal.



Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc.  
 P.O. Box 167  
 Iselin, New Jersey 08830

UTILITY SERVICE AFFILIATES  
 Perth Amboy

PWSID #1216001

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other groups are encouraged to share this Water Quality Report with all water users at their locations.

Este reporte contiene información muy importante con relación a su agua potable. Si no entiende bien, hable con alguien que se lo pueda traducir o llame al Departamento de Servicios al Cliente al teléfono (732) 826-0290 ext. 4024 ó 4025, para hablar con un representante en español sobre este reporte.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you, or call: (732) 826-0290 to speak with someone regarding this report in Spanish.

Partners in Providing Quality Drinking Water

We invite you to review this report to learn more about the partnership and your water supply.

- Improve the quality of the City's drinking water.
- Modernize its water and wastewater systems.
- Perform ongoing maintenance on facilities.
- Enhance efficiencies in utility operations.

Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. (USA-PA) and the City of Perth Amboy are partnering to provide a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water to Perth Amboy residents. Under the innovative public-private partnership, the City and USA-PA will continue to work cooperatively to:

Help Preserve Our Water Resources

USA-PA encourages customers to use water wisely year-round. The Company has an ample water supply to enable it to consistently meet its customers' demands for water. The following tips will not only help preserve our water supplies, but may also help to lower your water bill:

- Fix leaks immediately.
- In hot weather, water grass early in the morning.
- Select the appropriate water level when doing laundry.
- Check sprinkler heads periodically to ensure they are aimed correctly.
- Get a cover for your swimming pool so that water does not evaporate.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

Do your part to save water, a precious natural resource.

Wise Water Tips

- Shortening your showers by one or two minutes can save up to 700 gallons a month.
- Turning off the water while shaving saves 3 gallons a day.
- Fix all leaky toilets, faucets and pipes.

Saving water helps everyone and ensures this precious resource for future generations.

Public Outreach

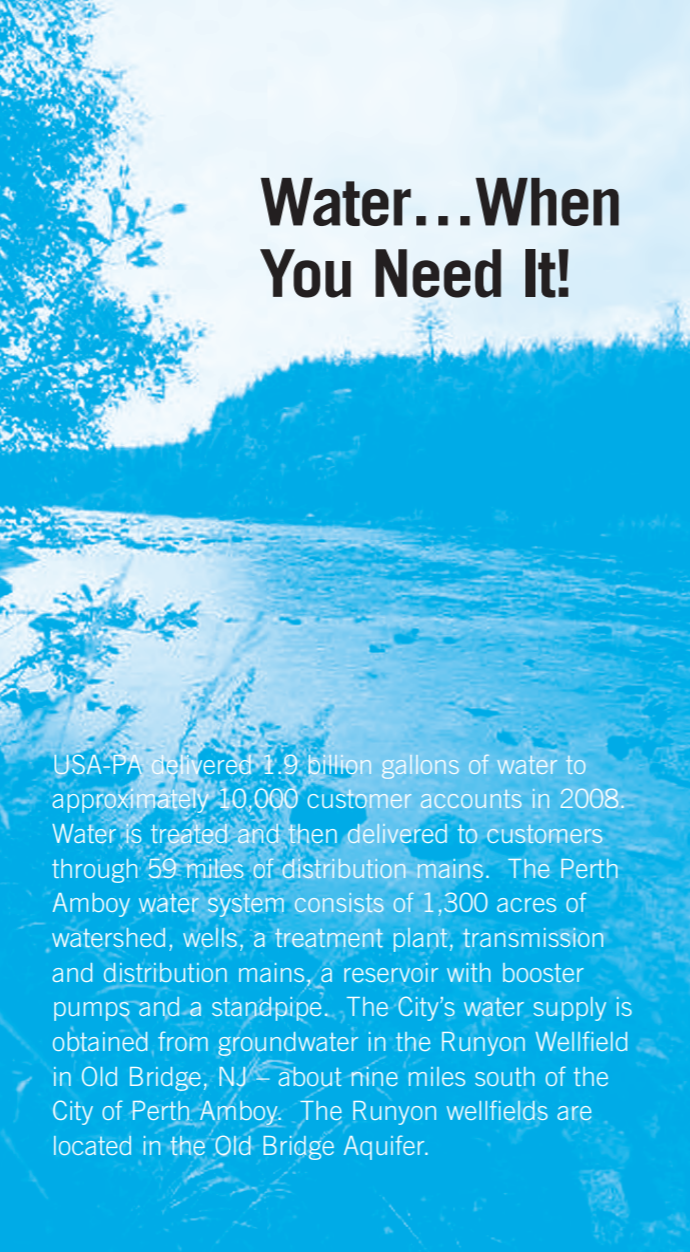
USA-PA encourages customers to learn more about their water supply. We also provide speakers for organizations and visit area schools to educate people about the importance of safe drinking water, wise water use and careers in the water industry.

In 2008, the Company sponsored a poster contest for young students which drew hundreds of entries from area schools. The contest encouraged students in grades 2-5, to design a logo on the theme, "Tap into a Good Thing-Drink More Water." Six winners were selected and each was presented with a U.S. Savings Bond and honored, along with their parents and teachers, at a Company luncheon in observance of Safe Drinking Water Week in May. Among the winners, was Sharon Rosato, a 4th Grader from Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy.

## Your Drinking Water Meets or is Better Than State and Federal Primary Standards for Drinking Water Quality

This document is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. (USA-PA), in 2008. It meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the sources of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants.

USA-PA is pleased to report that we had no Safe Drinking Water Act violations in 2008. We believe high quality drinking water is vital to the well-being of the residents of the City of Perth Amboy and are committed to delivering a safe and plentiful drinking water supply. We encourage you to read this report to gain a better understanding of all that's involved in bringing clean, clear tap water to your home.



## Water...When You Need It!

USA-PA delivered 1.9 billion gallons of water to approximately 10,000 customer accounts in 2008. Water is treated and then delivered to customers through 59 miles of distribution mains. The Perth Amboy water system consists of 1,300 acres of watershed, wells, a treatment plant, transmission and distribution mains, a reservoir with booster pumps and a standpipe. The City's water supply is obtained from groundwater in the Runyon Wellfield in Old Bridge, NJ – about nine miles south of the City of Perth Amboy. The Runyon wellfields are located in the Old Bridge Aquifer.

## Investing in our Facilities and Infrastructure

At USA-PA, we're working hard to ensure a quality and plentiful water supply. Our treatment systems are designed and operated to produce water that is in compliance with all state and federal primary drinking water standards. We're also working to ensure there is an ample water supply to meet potential customer demand and to support the City's numerous redevelopment projects.



Since the partnership with the City began, millions of dollars have been invested to modernize the City's water and wastewater systems. With the support and guidance of the City's administration, we continue to work together to identify system efficiencies. Improving flows for fire fighting and maintaining our pumps, transmission lines and other infrastructure remain a top priority. Interconnections in place with the Middlesex Water Company distribution system ensures the uninterrupted water flow to residents. Work is underway for the cleaning of the Florida Grove Road 40 million gallon potable water reservoir. This project will improve the efficiency of the reservoir and allow for more stored water. Regarding wastewater, the plan to help the City of Perth Amboy meet state regulations regarding Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) has been updated and submitted to

the NJDEP, along with the Long Term Control Plan. For information regarding the Combined Sewer System, please contact Luis Perez Jimenez at (732) 826-5335.

Only Tap Water Delivers™

- Public Health Protection
- Fire Protection
- Infrastructure to Support a Solid Economy
- Quality of Life

## Safeguarding Our Water

At USA-PA, our staff conducts hundreds of water quality tests each year to assure that the required level of drinking water is maintained. Samples of treated and untreated water are taken regularly to assure quality that complies with state and federal standards for quality and safety. In addition to the quality of its water, USA-PA is responsible for the security of its facilities. USA-PA is continually working with government and law enforcement agencies to assure that the security measures in place at all of its facilities are considered adequate for current situations.



**What the Numbers Mean to You:** The table shows the results of our monitoring during 2008. The EPA requires monitoring of over 100 drinking water contaminants. Those listed are the only contaminants detected. For a complete list of monitored contaminants, contact USA-PA at (732) 826-5335. As you can see, the USA-PA system had no MCL violations. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels. The State requires water systems to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, some of these data may represent prior period testing that is considered representative of water quality.

**Definitions & Abbreviations used below:**

**Primary Standards:** Standards which relate to public health.  
**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.  
**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.  
**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is

necessary for control of microbial contaminants.  
**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 contamination.  
**Waiver:** State permission to reduce monitoring frequency because previous results have consistently been below the MCL.  
**PPB:** Parts Per Billion. 1 part per billion corresponds to 1 minute in 2000 years or 1 penny in \$10 million.  
**PPM:** Parts Per Million. 1 part per million corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10 thousand.  
**mrem/year:** Millirems per year. A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.  
**N/A:** Not Applicable.

**ND:** None Detectable at testing limit.  
**NR:** Not Reported.  
**<:** Less Than.  
**AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
**CNR:** Currently Not Regulated.  
**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Used to measure cloudiness in drinking water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.  
**pCi/l:** PicoCuries per Liter. A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. – 2008							
Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level	Range	Major Sources in Drinking Water	MCL Violation Yes / No
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>							
Arsenic	ppb	50	0	ND	-	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Nickel	ppb	Monitoring Only	N/A	6	2.2-6.0	Occurs naturally in the environment	No
Lead (Note 1)	ppb	AL = 15	0	0.67	<0.002 - 67	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Copper (Note 1)	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	1.05	<0.25 - 1.05	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.6	0 - 0.60	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	ND	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
<b>TURBIDITY</b>							
	ntu's	TT (Note 2)	N/A	100%	0.02 - 0.04	Soil runoff	No
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria		MCL: found in > 5% of samples		2%	0 - 2%	Naturally present in the environment	No
<b>RADIOLOGICAL (Note 3)</b>							
Radium 226 & 228	pCi/l	5	0	1.77	1.77	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Gross Alpha emitters	pCi/l	15	0	8.52	8.10 - 8.52	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Used for Compliance	Range	Major Sources in Drinking Water	MCL Violation Yes / No
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (Note 4)	ppb	80	0	72	10.02 - 26.79	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Haloacetic Acids (Note 5)	ppb	CNR	N/A	32.0	2.30 - 59.10		N/A
Disinfectant Residuals (Note 6)	ppm	4 ppm MRDL	4 ppm MRDLG	0.19	0.19 - 1.07	Result of water disinfection	No

**Note 1:** The listed Lead and Copper concentrations are the 90th Percentile Value of samples taken. A reduction in the required frequency of Lead and Copper sampling in accordance with 40 CFR 141.86 (d)(4)iii was granted to USA-PA in June 2001. Samples will be taken once every three years. Last sampling period was in June 2006. Next sampling period is June 2009.

**Note 2:** TT: Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Turbidity MCL: The Turbidity Level must be less than or equal to 0.3 ntu's in 95% of the samples taken every month and at no time exceed 1 ntu. The highest detected level for Turbidity is the lowest monthly percentage meeting the Turbidity MCL.

**Note 3:** Radiological test results are from year 2005 quarterly samples. Radium 226 & 228 results are the combined results for the quarter.

**Note 4:** Trihalomethanes values used for compliance are averages of samples taken four times over the course of the calendar year. Running annual average for the year 2008 is 39 ppb.

**Note 5:** Compliance is based on running annual average based on quarterly sampling.

**Note 6:** MRDL and MRDLG are maximum disinfectant (chlorine residual) levels.

**HEALTH INFORMATION – Health Effects of Detected Contaminants (Required Language)**

**Arsenic** - 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.

**Lead** - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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

**Fluoride** - Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

**Nitrate** - Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

**Turbidity** - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

**Total Coliform Bacteria** - Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

**Radium 226 & 228** - Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Gross Alpha emitters** - Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Total 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

**What Substances May Be Found in Drinking Water Sources?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water moves over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and organics and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Substances that may be present in source waters prior to the treatment process include:

**Microbial Contaminants:** Such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock and wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants:** Such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, wastewater discharges, or farming.

**Pesticides and Herbicides:** Which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants:** Including natural, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of nature and industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, storm water runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants:** Which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Required Additional Health Information**

**Important Information about Lead and Nitrate**

**Lead - About Lead in Drinking Water** - 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. USA-PA 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, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**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.



**Special Considerations Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers, and Others**

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, this making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

**For Your Safety – A Message for People with Compromised Immune Systems**

Although our drinking water meets all state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals 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 individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial pathogens are available from the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

**A Word of Caution**

Our treatment systems are designed and operated to produce water that meets all state and federal standards. Many substances and microscopic organisms found in water may be a concern if they occur at high concentrations. For some contaminants, MCL levels have not been set because the EPA has not determined at what level they pose a public health risk. This is often because a reliable detection method is unavailable and/or because the contaminant is rarely found in treated water.

Some naturally occurring organisms commonly found in the natural water supplies may not be eliminated during the treatment process. This means that even a well-run system may contain low levels of microscopic organisms. The levels, however, are normally of little concern to healthy individuals. It should be noted, however, that under certain circumstances, these organisms might amplify to dangerous levels within a customer's own water supply system. All customers, including residential, commercial and industrial customers, and other large facilities such as schools, hospitals and hotels/motels, should follow appropriate procedures for maintaining their own plumbing systems and appliances.

**If you have any concerns about these matters, please call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

**Monitoring Waivers**

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for some compounds because previous results have consistently been below the MCL. USA-PA received waivers for the following contaminants in both its surface and groundwater supplies: Synthetic Organic Chemicals and Nitrites.

**General Safety Suggestions Regarding Water Main Breaks**

During main breaks or other system disruptions, USA-PA encourages customers to boil their water, used for drinking, for one minute prior to use. This suggestion is offered to provide an extra margin of safety to our customers. This precautionary advisory is typically in effect from the time of the break, until 48 hours after service is restored and water quality analysis on the affected main are completed.

These safety suggestions may be of particular interest to people with compromised immune systems, the elderly and infants who may be more vulnerable to possible contaminants in drinking water than the general population and have special needs regarding water quality. The Company suggests that these individuals discuss the boil water safety recommendation with their health care providers, should they experience any water service disruption to their homes in the future.

Based on past experience, the Company does not expect any water quality problems to be associated with main repairs. Its recommendation is simply a standard precautionary measure to better ensure the safety of its customers during distribution system and main repair work.