

New Jersey American Water Odor and Taste Alert

Even though I am not aware of West Windsor residents reporting any problem with the taste or odor of water supplied by New Jersey American Water, most of you have heard about the issue in New Jersey through direct company alerts, the West Windsor website or other means.

American Water held a conference call Saturday afternoon, December 21, to update elected officials regarding the taste and odor problem. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner was also on the call.

Here are the highlights –

They are unequivocal that the water is safe to use. It is being tested continuously and it does not violate any federal safe drinking water standards. The DEP commissioner confirmed that the water is safe to use. Boiling the water is not recommended as it will not get rid of either the taste or the odor.

They have not isolated the source of the problem and continue to investigate. Most of their supply comes from Millstone and Raritan rivers along with a few wells. Their best guess is that something in the watershed area is getting washed into a tributary and ending up in the water supply.

The taste and odor problem has moved around to different areas. If you don't have the issue now there is no guarantee it will not show up later.

American Water continues to work with NJ DEP. NJ DEP is fully involved overseeing the investigation.

They continuously test samples of water that has odor and taste issues, as well as water that doesn't have issues. They didn't have a list of tests and materials they are currently testing for. They promised to provide a list of these tests and materials.

They promised another call early next week or earlier if anything is found. I will keep you updated as soon as we receive any update.

Hemant Marathe
Mayor