



For additional information, ask for a copy of the latest BNL Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report or to see the most recent, complete analysis of drinking-water samples from any the following:

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Water Treatment Operations Engineer Tom Boucher measures the pH of water at BNL's Water Treatment Facility.

FAQ I: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Since BNL is a Superfund site, how can the Lab produce water that is safe enough for everyone — including children — to drink?*

A: The Lab's drinking water is groundwater drawn up through six wells on site that are tapped into what is called the Glacial formation.

Approximately 150 feet at its deepest, the Glacial is the topmost of the three layers making up the Long Island aquifer, and most private wells on Long Island draw their water from this layer.

BNL's drinking-water wells numbered 4, 6 and 7 are located west of Upton Road, while wells numbered 10, 11, and 12 are

located along East Fifth Avenue.

All six of these drinking-water wells lie outside areas where contamination from past practices has significantly impacted groundwater.

Regardless, the Lab tests its drinking water regularly (see question below). Contaminated groundwater and soils are being cleaned up under the Lab's environmental restoration program, which is more than half complete.



Q: *Why are some drinking-water fountains on site out of service, and why is the only drinking water in some work areas bottled water?*

A: Some drinking-water fountains on site have been taken out of service and remain out of commission due to the fact that the water that comes out of the spout exceeds the drinking-water standard for the element lead.

This is *not* because the Lab's drinking water contains excessive amounts of lead. In fact, the Lab's drinking water on average contains less than 1.0 micrograms per liter of lead.

As set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the drinking water standard for lead is 15 micrograms per liter. This means that any lead in water for drinking must not exceed this amount.

The reason why the water from the now out-of-service fountains exceeds this standard is because of the common past practice worldwide to use solder containing lead to join copper plumbing pipe, such as the cooling coil pipe within drinking-water fountains.

The EPA banned the use of lead solder in 1986, and, since that time, lead-free solder has been used at BNL.

As a result, in those work areas where water fountains have been taken out of service, bottled water is provided for drinking instead.



Q: *How often is the Lab's drinking water tested, who tests it, what is it tested for, and what is found in the water?*

A: Depending upon what is being tested for, the Lab's drinking water is tested weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually, and every other year, as follows:

analytical parameter	frequency of analysis	
	at the well	at the tap
asbestos	not required	annually
bacteria	quarterly	monthly
inorganic chemicals	annually	semi-annually
lead & copper	not required	20 locations every other year
organic chemicals & pesticides	quarterly	not required
organic contaminants	quarterly	annually
radionuclides	quarterly	weekly

BNL water samples are analyzed by H2M Laboratories, Inc., of Melville, for biological and chemical parameters, and, for radionuclides, by the BNL analytical services laboratory, both of which are certified by the New York State Department of Health. The analysis reports are reported to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services,

which conducts its own annual tests of all county water systems. In addition, the results are delivered to BNL's Environmental Services Division, which ensures that the Lab's water is in compliance with all applicable regulations, and the results are summarized in the Lab's annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report.