

The following information is being made available in response to articles published in the Asbury Park Press and Patch on or about September 21, 2016 concerning water quality in more than 130 systems in the State of New Jersey.

To summarize, Chromium 6 exists in all water systems. Marlboro Water Utility's Chromium 6 levels remain well below all existing legal limits, including those established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the State of California.

- (1) Chromium 6 is a heavy metal naturally occurring throughout environment and is caused by geological formations.
- (2) Chromium 6 is categorized as an “**unregulated contaminant**” by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- (3) The EPA current standard deals with **total** Chromium (*all categories—not just Chromium 6*). The EPA's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total Chromium is 100 ppb.
- (4) Marlboro Water's **total** Chromium per the 2015 Water Quality report ranged from 0.21 ppb to 0.35 ppb, significantly below the MCL.
- (5) Marlboro Water participates in the EPA's UCMR3 (Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule 3) program which includes monitoring levels of **Chromium 6** and other unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and NJDEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Marlboro Water's 2015 Water Quality report includes these results, is available on-line and has been mailed to all customers. The Chromium 6 data samples for the period ending April 2015 ranged from 0.052 to 0.16 parts per billion (ppb).

(6) The news reports concerning Chromium 6 sampling compared the **State of New Jersey** results with various *goals and standards* utilized in the **State of California**.

a. In July, 2014, the State of California became the first in the nation to establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Chromium 6. The California MCL is currently 10 ppb.

b. The State of California has a “Public Health Goal” or PHG of 0.02 ppb for Chromium 6. A PHG is defined by the California Water Board as levels at which:

“no adverse health effects would be anticipated over an entire lifetime of exposure to the most sensitive population...a PHG is not a boundary line between a ‘safe’ and ‘dangerous’ level of a chemical, and drinking water is frequently demonstrated as safe to drink even if it contains chemicals at levels exceeding their PHGs.”

(7) Marlboro Water samples for Chromium 6 are well below the State of California’s MCL. Marlboro Water continues to participate in the EPA’s monitoring program for unregulated contaminants. Any notifications concerning compliance with drinking water standards, pursuant to State and Federal regulations are posted on-line and communicated in mailings directly to customers.

(8) If there are any questions, please contact the Marlboro Water Utility at 732 536-0200 x1629.

Sources:

1. 2015 Marlboro Water Quality Report

[http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/Marlboro Water Report 2015 Web.pdf](http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/Marlboro_Water_Report_2015_Web.pdf)

2. California Water Boards Fact Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions about Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water

(This FAQ sheet was last updated on Sept. 25, 2015)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/chromium6/chromium fact sheet 2015 final.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/chromium6/chromium_fact_sheet_2015_final.pdf)

3. US EPA “Chromium in Drinking Water”

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>