

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Response to News Article on Possible Water Contaminants from Environmental Working Group (EWG)

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) released an update to their TAP Water Database on drinking water quality data today. The EWG uses their own health guidelines for contaminants. According to EWG, their database provides a compilation of health-based guidelines, such as standards developed by the state of California, based on the latest science, for many contaminants found in water supplies, as well as options for Americans who want to reduce contaminant levels in their tap water. The information presented in EWG's database could appear contradictory to Drinking Water Watch, because it also includes water quality data collected as part of EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Rule, and it could also illustrate that your system has an exceedance for a contaminant, but the exceedance is based on their own health-based guidelines and not an existing [maximum contaminant level \(MCL\)](#). The release of this report/database update may generate an increase in volume of questions from customers.

The report can be found here: <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/>.