



November 7, 2017

Trenton Water Works Lifting of Water Restriction Notice

The Trenton Water Works (TWW) utilizes the Delaware River as its source of supply. On Sunday, October 29th, the region experienced significant rainfall that resulted in considerable runoff entering the river, decreasing its clarity. Such a decrease in clarity is measured as increased turbidity. TWW maintains a large finished water reservoir, in addition to its various elevated storage tanks within its distribution system. The reservoir has a usable capacity of approximately 78 million gallons, or around three full days of supply.

The normal procedure when the river quality decreases is to reduce the amount treated by the plant and to utilize water stored in the finished water reservoir, thereby reducing the negative impact on the plant components. In order to continue to deliver water that met water quality regulations, the plant personnel limited the flow rate to that which the plant could adequately treat under the circumstances and continued to rely on the reservoir to make up the difference. TWW also opened water interconnections with NJ American and Aqua NJ to supplement its supply and to further reduce the draw on the reservoir. A precautionary request for customers to reduce non-essential water consumption was issued to further lessen the adverse impacts on the system.

Once the optimal treatment process was identified through significant testing, the plant operational staff started to take measures to increase the plant output. Such flow increases need to be done in very small increments so as not to disrupt the treatment process. From Friday through Saturday, plant staff continued to increase the plant capacity to normal levels, which also started to fill the reservoir, while satisfying customer demands.

The request for customers to reduce non-essential water consumption has been cancelled. The plant is operating at full capacity. During the entire process, the principal concern was to continue to deliver water that was in conformance with water quality standards, as the health and safety of the TWW customers is its highest concern. Throughout the event, TWW experienced a couple of water main breaks and fires while continuing to deliver safe drinking water. TWW would like to thank the customers who responded to the request to reduce consumption.