

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Durham Ridge Water System – Arsenic Notification

Durham Ridge/North Branch/Plumstead Chase/Garden Village

1. What happened with the arsenic violation notice?

The violation occurred during the second quarter of 2026 because the required arsenic sampling was not conducted on schedule. In addition, the filtration treatment system was not properly maintained. The hired licensed operator responsible for the system has since been terminated and replaced.

2. Is the affected well currently supplying water to residents?

No. The affected well has been taken offline and remains out of service. It will remain shut down until the filtration system is replaced or repaired and all Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requirements are met to return the well to operation.

3. Is the drinking water currently safe?

Yes. The Durham Ridge system is currently being supplied by two other wells that provide safe and reliable drinking water. These wells have never had a detectable level of arsenic.

4. When did arsenic levels first exceed the current drinking water standard?

The affected well has historically contained naturally occurring arsenic at levels ranging between 19 and 21 parts per billion (ppb) (0.019–0.021 mg/L) since the well was drilled in 1993. PADEP lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic from 0.050 mg/L to 0.010 mg/L (10 ppb) in 2001.

5. Why wasn't this an issue before?

To address the naturally occurring arsenic, the Township installed an arsenic filtration system in 2004. When operating properly, the treatment system removes the arsenic from the water before it enters the distribution system.

6. Have residents been exposed to arsenic in their drinking water?

With the treatment system functioning properly, post-treatment testing has shown arsenic levels of zero. DEP test results for 2024 and 2025 also reported arsenic levels of zero in the treated water.

7. Why does the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) mention arsenic if test results show zero?

The CCR contains a standard statement indicating that drinking water may contain low levels of arsenic even when it meets EPA standards. According to Township records, treated water from the affected well tested at zero arsenic following filtration in 2024 and 2025.

8. How often is arsenic testing performed?

The affected well is required to be tested quarterly for arsenic. The two remaining Durham Ridge wells, which have never shown arsenic detections, are tested every three years. If arsenic were detected in those wells, PADEP would increase the testing frequency.

9. What caused the recent concern about arsenic?

The concern arose because the required quarterly test was missed and the filtration system was not being properly maintained. Once these issues were identified, the well was removed from service, and corrective actions began.

10. What corrective actions is the Township taking?

The Township's engineer and water system operators are evaluating options for replacing the failed filtration equipment. The Township is also working with PADEP to ensure all requirements are met before the well is returned to service.

11. How will residents receive updates?

Updates will be on the [Township website](#) as additional information, timelines, and plans become available.