

City of Jersey Village – Public Water Supply

Recent media reports concerning the safety of drinking water in the greater Houston area, cite unsafe levels of alpha radiation in the drinking water which exceed federal legal limits. These reports single out “Jersey Village” wells as being particularly unsafe for consumption. As is often the case with media reporting of this nature, the report is misleading, at best.

Upon, reviewing the information provided in the report, staff found that none of the wells referred to are within the Jersey Village City limits.

- Jersey Village #8 – is located near 529 and Highway 6
- Jersey Village #3 – is located at 529 @ Northwood
- Jersey Village #5 – is located at 529 and Log Cradle
- Jersey Village #6 – is located at 529 near Jackrabbit Road

The wells are in an area that is commonly referred to as the “Jersey Village well field.”

The City of Jersey Village’s Village Water Plant well is tested quarterly by the state and the findings published in the JV Star and on the City’s web site, (www.jerseyvillage.info). Under the Public Works section you will find the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. While, the report does show that the Water Plant does produce detectable levels of radiation, the Village Water Plant is used as a secondary standby well and used only in the event of a major catastrophe. The levels detected at the Village Water Plant are within federal standards.

With regard to the city’s primary water supply, the City of Jersey Village purchases its water from the City of Houston under a June 2000 contract. It is a 40-year contract that provides for the purchase of water by the City of Jersey Village from the City of Houston’s treated water system, including ground water and surface water plants. The City of Houston is bound to provide contract treated water that meets all Texas and Federal standards regarding Water quality, including the Safe Drinking Water Act. Consumer Confidence Reports are posted on the City of Houston website at <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/utilities/consumer-confidence.html>.

The City of Houston provides water to nine (9) community water systems. The Houston Main System, which relies mostly on treated surface water, serves approximately 95% of the people that live in the City of Houston service areas. This includes Jersey Village.

The information in the most recent media findings are reports of test data from untreated ground water not for treated surface water. The City of Houston’s response to the claim that unsafe levels of alpha radiation, exceeding federal legal limits, exist in the drinking water, are as follows:

“All of the facilities where the 10 wells cited are located have met and continue to meet all State and Federal limits for drinking water. Facilities such as Jersey Village, Spring Branch, and Southwest are all surface water re-pump stations where surface water is the main supply source. Below are the most current results from TCEQ sample data **for water at entry point to the system.**”

Facility	Year	Gross Alpha (pCi/L)
D-123	2008	11.1
Jersey Village	2008	ND (<2.0)
Katy Addicks	2008	7.8
Park Ten Central	2009	10.9
Sims Bayou	2005	10.8
Southwest	2005	ND (<2.0)
Spring Branch	2005	ND (<2.0)

If the EPA guidance on adjusting for Uranium is applied to the USGS results (raw water), the water samples would be below 15 pCi/L. for gross alpha particles, even considering that, this is source water, not system water.”

If you have questions about your water, or if you need additional information, please contact the City of Jersey Village Public Works Department at 713-466-2133.