

Turbidity

What is Turbidity?

Turbidity is the measure of relative clarity of a liquid. Turbidity makes water cloudy or opaque. Excessive turbidity, or cloudiness, in drinking water is aesthetically unappealing, and may also represent a health concern. Turbidity can provide food and shelter for pathogens. If not removed, the causes of high turbidity can promote regrowth of pathogens in the water, leading to waterborne disease outbreaks.

Does Turbidity have any additional names?

No.

What are the known health effects?

While Turbidity directly is not a health concern, Turbidity can provide food and shelter for pathogens. If not removed, the causes of high turbidity can promote regrowth of pathogens in the water, leading to waterborne disease outbreaks in water systems.

How does exposure occur?

Turbidity exposure comes from drinking water. The amount of turbidity in drinking water prior to treatment is dependent on the source of water.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and the water delivered by Mount Laurel MUA is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP standards. The maximum allowable level in drinking water for turbidity is 1 NTU for any single sample result and 95% of all sample results must be below 0.3 NTU. The highest single result reported was 0.1 NTU with 100% of samples below 0.3 NTU.

How can I reduce exposure?

An effective method to remove turbidity is with reverse osmosis or ultrafiltration membrane systems.

Additional information for this fact sheet including the information referenced can be found at:

<http://www.clevelandwater.com/blog/understanding-turbidity-and-why-it-matters>

https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/turbidity-and-water?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects