



W. Reed Gusciora  
**Mayor**

Sean Semple  
**Director**

Taya Brown-Humphrey  
**Water-Treatment Plant Superintendent**

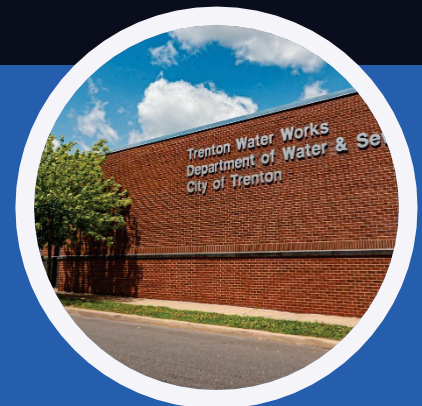
DiAsia Brooks  
**Chief Chemist**

Andrew Pappachen  
**W-4 Licensed Operator**

Office of Communications and Community Relations

## Director's Year in Review

# 2023



Dear Valued Customer:

In 2023 Trenton Water Works (TWW) took decisive steps to maintain high water quality, improve operations, and advance capital projects to benefit our service-area consumers.

Through the assistance of our partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and a Unilateral Administrative Order executed by Mayor W. Reed Gusciora last October, TWW is advancing this momentum and achieving results.

This letter summarizes TWW's past year and plans to continue our comprehensive improvements to the TWW system, one of the oldest public water systems in the United States.

## Water Quality

Our paramount goal is to produce drinking water that meets or exceeds federal and state **Safe Drinking Water Act** regulatory standards.

TWW's water-treatment process of water drawn from the **Delaware River** is coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and disinfection, followed by filtration.



TWW's laboratory tests the water hourly for turbidity, chlorine, and pH levels to continuously assess water quality. We test for **PFAS** (forever chemicals) annually and lead and copper in at least 100 approved locations systemwide, and we select customers who meet specific criteria to participate in our **Lead and Copper Sampling Program**.

TWW maintains high water quality by adjusting treatment at our water-filtration plant, flushing our **683-mile distribution system**, cleaning and disinfecting storage tanks, undertaking rigorous sampling and testing, and advancing capital projects, including cleaning and lining water mains.

A critical water quality goal is to achieve adequate chlorine levels in our distribution system for disinfection to **mitigate the growth of pathogens like Legionella**.

*Legionella* is a bacterium commonly found in natural and artificial aquatic environments. It exists in low concentrations in public water systems. *Legionella* only poses a health risk when growth occurs in warm, stagnant water and when a person inhales aerosolized water (tiny water droplets). To learn more about *Legionella*, visit [dep.nj.gov/trentonwater/legionella](https://dep.nj.gov/trentonwater/legionella).

On April 1, 2023, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TWW undertook a months-long **Low-Velocity Water Main Flushing Program** to maintain adequate chlorine levels in targeted areas of the distribution system for optimum disinfection to mitigate *Legionella*.



The program aims to **sustain a chlorine residual of 1.00 mg/L** in the distribution system, especially during warmer months. Last summer TWW personnel opened fire hydrants, allowing them to flow for extended periods to achieve a targeted chlorine residual. They then took samples for testing, and shared data with regulators. TWW will use this data, including **Geographic Information Systems**, to develop a multifaceted distribution-system flushing plan for annual implementation, starting in 2024.

TWW will convey the details of the flushing plan to you before commencement via direct mail to your mailboxes, our Facebook page, using our Reverse 911 system, **TWW-Connects**, and the media. I recommend that you follow TWW's Facebook page for the latest on our activities. We are transparent about our water quality, operations, and capital work. If you have questions about water-utility activities, please phone our **Office of Communications and Community Relations** at **(609) 989-3033**.

To discharge aged water from our distribution system, including sediment, and to maintain optimum chlorine levels for disinfection, TWW will install approximately **170 flushing assemblies** on dead-end water mains systemwide starting this month.

Continuing the removal of lead infrastructure from our system, we are redesigning our **Lead Service Line Replacement Program**, which has spent approximately \$50 million to replace 9,601 lead service lines—28 percent of the water utility's lead inventory—from our distribution system and at private homes since February 2021. We aim to remove all lead infrastructure from our system by 2031.



We continue to execute operational and capital work to reduce **Total Trihalomethanes** or **disinfection by-products** (DBPs). Our laboratory tests for DBPs regularly and shares data with state regulators. Between July 1, 2021 and September 2021, one of the nine DBP locations we sampled exceeded the standard of 80 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The result was 82 ug/L. We notified you about this last month and in December 2022. Regulators require that we inform you annually about this violation until our DBP remediation is complete.

Our DBP remediation includes executing a Low-Velocity Water Main Flushing Program, as mentioned earlier, cleaning and disinfecting elevated storage tanks, repairing in-line mixers, installing additional sampling stations, and flushing assemblies at dead-end water mains systemwide to strengthen the management of the distribution system.

### Capital Projects

In 2019 we launched a **\$405-million, six-year capital plan**. This initial investment was necessary to safeguard our water supply by decentralizing storage, removing lead service lines from our system, upgrading the water-filtration plant and distribution system, and complying with ever-changing federal and state regulatory mandates, the most stringent in the world.



To safeguard TWW's finished water supply, we are advancing Phases 1 and 2 of a project to decentralize TWW's water storage, taking the open finished **Pennington Avenue Reservoir** out of service in five years. Phases 1 and 2, a \$90-million undertaking, will see the construction of multi-million-gallon storage tanks in **Trenton, Hamilton Township, and Ewing Township**. We are dedicated to engaging customers and service-area consumers regarding this critical work through sustained communications and community outreach.



In December we announced Phase 1 of our **Smart Meter Project** to replace approximately 21,000 water meters in **Trenton, Ewing Township, and Hopewell Township** with a model that our personnel can read remotely, eliminating nearly all estimated bills. The New Jersey Water Bank, a state revolving fund program jointly administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, is funding the \$20-million project. Mandatory installations begin this quarter, and you will receive a letter from **National Metering Services**, the contract vendor, or **TWW's Meter Shop**, inviting you to make an appointment to replace your meter at no charge. Please watch your mail for these communications to avoid installation delays.



In the months ahead, TWW will replace nearly two miles of 16-inch water main along **Olden Avenue** in **Ewing Township**, a \$4-million project. The water mains in the high-traffic area are prone to repeated breaks.



Utilizing a grant from the EPA, TWW will remove up to 750 lead services in specific **Trenton** neighborhoods, starting this year under the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. For more information, call our **hotline** at **(609) 989-3600**, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. TWW is closed on federal and municipal holidays.





With the assistance of our regulatory partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we will continue to revise our standard operating procedures, strengthen the training of our personnel, advance capital projects, capture state and federal funding, and improve our customer-service delivery, among other customer-centric goals.



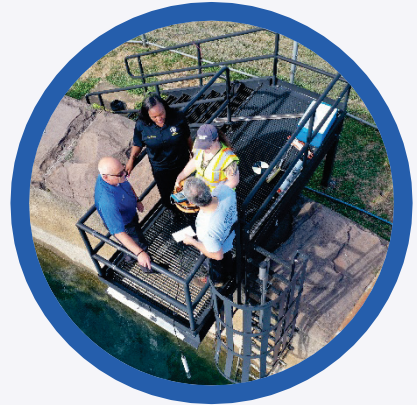
We are strengthening our outreach, communicating directly with you, and organizing our **H2Open Forums** in your communities, where you can engage our leadership team with your questions. This is also an opportunity to learn more about how we produce your drinking water and implement the critical work and substantial investments needed to ensure high water quality for years to come.



**TWW has produced drinking water since 1859.** A self-liquidating municipal government asset, the water utility is grounded in a proven, well-engineered history of which we are immensely proud. TWW utilizes revenue from you, our valued customer, to fund operations, capital work, and debt service. Capital work, measured in millions of dollars, is financed with municipal bonds, government loans, and federal and state grants.

TWW's organizational structure comprises administration, the water-filtration plant, engineering, water distribution, construction and maintenance, the meter shop, and customer care and billing. TWW has approximately 165 employees.

TWW continues to make significant progress toward modernizing our sprawling, well-engineered infrastructure, financing capital work, and strengthening our operations and workforce. We endeavor to deliberately and substantially continue these efforts for your benefit. **We are at your service.**



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Semple'.

Sean Semple  
**Director**  
Department of Water and Sewer  
City of Trenton

## How to Reach Us

TWW's regular business hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. TWW is closed on federal and municipal holidays.

- For account-related questions, call **1-866-TWW-BLUE**. Please listen carefully to the prompts. Spanish-speaking customer service representatives are available.
- For water meter issues, call our **Meter Shop** at **(609) 989-3225** or **(609) 989-3226**.

- For water emergencies, such as service leaks, water main breaks, and damaged fire hydrants, call our **24/7 hotline** at **(609) 989-3222**.
- To sign up to receive emergency notifications from TWW's Reverse 911 system, **TWW-Connects**, visit **trentonwaterworks.org**.
- To pay your bill by phone, call **1-855-667-0982**.
- To pay your bill online, click on the **Pay Your Bill** link at **trentonwaterworks.org**.

