

THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

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2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 5260009 NAME: Municipal Authority of Washington Township

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Customer Service Department at (724) 929-3370.

We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Washington Township Community Building, located at 1392 Fayette Avenue, Belle Vernon, Pa.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source is the Monongahela River in Fayette City, Pa. We also purchase a small portion of water from the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (PSWID 5260036). We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to Transportation / Road Deicing, Wildcat Sewer Outfalls, Utility Substations, Marinas, Barges, Shipping, Urban Areas, Power Plants, Strip Mines and Wastewater Treatment. Overall, our source has moderate to high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Web* page at (<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-59555/RS5260009001%20Washington.pdf>).

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report may be obtained by calling The Washington Township Municipal Authority at (724) 929-3370.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).

MONITORING YOUR WATER:

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

DEFINITIONS:

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average, computed quarterly, of quarterly arithmetic averages of all analytical results for samples taken during the most recent 4 calendar quarter.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)- A measure of water clarity.

Information about Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Municipal Authority of Washington Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (entry point) Free	0.2	1.27	1.27 – 2.39	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfectants and Disinfection by-products								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest RAA Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (distribution)	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.00	1.27 – 2.11	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	80	NA	59.0	26.5 – 96.8	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	60	NA	23.7	11.6 – 32.6	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Inorganic contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride	2(a)	2	.0	(b)	ppm	2023	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Barium	.2	NA	.033	(b)	ppm	2023	N	Discharges from petroleum & metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Nitrate	10	1	.355	(b)	ppm	2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Lead and Copper (2022)							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.12	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

(a) EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

(b) Only one sample required

Turbidity						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.08	2023	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples \leq 0.3 NTU		100%	2023	N	

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (2021)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	25-35%	29.2 – 59.2%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

A number of other tests are run on your drinking water each year. These tests are for VOC's, SOC's, and IOC's. Of all the contaminants listed under these categories, none were detected in your drinking water.

VIOLATIONS: 1) In December 2023 a daily chlorine reading was taken and the date of the sample was recorded wrong. This error was corrected with the DEP. All test results were in compliance. It was a data entry error only. 2) Testing for Gross Alpha was to be done in 2023. Our lab performed the wrong analysis on the sample, so another sample was taken past the testing date. All results were in compliance.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).

HELPFUL HINTS

LEAD

- The Municipal Authority of Washington Township cares about your health and has been acting for many years to help limit exposure to lead in drinking water. As a customer, there are some steps you can take to further help limit your exposure.
- Lead does not come from the treatment plant or water main; it comes from lead service lines running between the water main in the street and the home, and from plumbing inside the home.
- If you have lead in the water pipe leading to your home or in your home plumbing, you should take precautions to protect your family and consider removing the sources of lead.
- You can reduce your risk of consuming lead in water by:
 - Flushing out the lines after a period of stagnation to get fresh water that is coming from the main.
 - Avoiding consuming water from the hot water tap, where lead is more likely to be present.
 - Purchasing a point-of-use treatment device certified to remove lead.
 - Using an alternative supply or bottled water until sources of exposure are removed.
 - If you test for lead in your tap water, have the sample analyzed by a certified laboratory.

DISCOLORED WATER

Water quality is affected whenever there is a disturbance to the water distribution system.

CLOUDY WATER

Cloudy water is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water similar to the gas bubbles in carbonated soft drinks. This can occur after pipe repairs or other service disruptions. After a short while, the bubbles rise to the top and are gone.

CAUSES OF DISCOLORED WATER

- Disturbances can be caused by various reasons such as water main breaks, authorized emergency use of a public fire hydrant, and electrical outages, to name a few. Iron build up is dislodged from inside the water lines creating the discoloration in the water. Time generally allows the system to settle and run clear. If you have any questions, please contact our customer service department.

- Flushing hydrants is a necessary step to assuring clear sparkling water to your home. It can cause a rust-look to the water for a short-time. The condition will clear-up—just let the cold water run for a short time. You will be notified by our telephone notification system when hydrants will be flushed in your area. Please make sure we have your correct phone number on file.

UNDETECTED WATER LEAKS

A continuous leak from a hole just 1/16th" in size at 60 psi water pressure would result in approximately 74,000 gallons wasted in a 3-month period! 1/8th" size hole would waste 296,000 gallons, 3/16th" hole would waste 666,000 gallons, and a 1/4" hole would waste 1,181,500 gallons of water in a 3-month period! It adds up fast and is very costly, especially if you are paying both water and sewer charges. So please check for leaks periodically

CHECKING FOR LEAKS

The best method for determining whether a leak exists is to take actual meter readings.

LOCATE YOUR WATER METER

The meter may be in your basement or mechanical room where the water service enters the building. Meter pits are out near the street or curb. If you have any questions as to the location of your meter, please contact our customer service department and a representative will answer any questions you may have.

LEAK DETECTION INDICATOR

First look on the face of the meter and observe the small red or black triangle. This triangle is considered a low flow or leak detection indicator. Check and see if the triangle is turning. Make sure all faucets are off. If the triangle is turning and no water is being used including appliances such as an ice-maker, a humidifier, a water softener, etc., water is being used somewhere within your plumbing system. Check outside hoses, washing machine hoses, toilets (especially downstairs ones), pools.

READ THE METER TWICE

Read the meter first at night, after the day's usage has ended and again in the morning before any water is used. Find the difference by subtracting the first reading from the second reading to calculate the consumption used overnight.

LOOK FOR LEAKS

The most common invisible leak is your toilet. Check for leaks by adding a small amount of food coloring in the tank. Wait for 15 minutes and see if the color appears in the bowl of your commode.

VERIFY REPAIRS

After making repairs, repeat the above mentioned procedures to verify that the leak has been repaired.