



Hellertown Borough Authority
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2015
Annual Water Quality Report

Hellertown Borough Authority

PWSID #3480052

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Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

WHAT'S THE QUALITY OF MY WATER?

The Hellertown Borough Authority is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2015. The Hellertown Borough Authority's drinking water supply surpassed the strict regulations of both the State of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this every year.

In 2015, our water department distributed 139 million gallons of water to our customers. Our water source is groundwater pumped from two wells and one spring system consisting of fourteen separate springs. The spring system is located throughout Polk Valley, and our two active wells are located within the Borough. The two wells are used when the spring system cannot meet customer demand. In 2015, 56% of our water, or approximately 78 million gallons, was pumped from the two wells.

The Authority disinfects all water using chlorine or sodium hypochlorite to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. Lime is added to the spring water to raise the pH and reduce acidity.

Our watershed consists of approximately 600 acres of woodland and open fields. We carefully monitor development adjacent to our watershed areas in an effort to protect and conserve our spring water sources.

In 2015, we cleaned and cement-lined 3,400 feet of cast iron water mains and replaced 10 valves, 6 fire hydrants and 280-feet of water main; replaced the main electric line to one of our wells; and made numerous replacements and improvements to our Office and Municipal Garage.

As required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) completed a source water assessment plan (SWAP) in 2004 which included a delineation of areas providing water for Hellertown Borough Authority's water sources and a determination of the system's relative susceptibility to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Glenn B. Higbie, Administrator, at 610-838-8051 during business hours or by writing to – P.O. Box 81, Hellertown, PA, 18055. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend regularly scheduled public meetings of the Authority typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at 501 Durham Street.

Hellertown Borough Authority's 2015 Monitoring Results

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 (1-800-426-4791).

It should be noted that in 2015 laboratory results were late being reported for the Ground Water Rule and 2,4-D.

Disinfectant Residuals (Entry Point)

Analyte (Unit of Measurement)	Location ID	Minimum residual required*	Lowest value reported	Highest value reported	Violation Y/N	MCLG (Health Goal)	MCL (EPA's Limits)	Year Sampled	Potential Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	101	0.50	0.02	1.50	N	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	2015	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (ppm)	102	0.70	0.02	1.19	N	"	"	"	"
Chlorine (ppm)	103	0.75	0.01	1.35	N	"	"	"	"

* - for more than 4 hours

Disinfectant Residuals (Distribution System)

Analyte (Unit of Measurement)	Month of highest average result	Range	MCLG (Health Goal)	MCL (EPA's)	Year Sampled	Potential Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppb)	Dec.	0.41-0.69	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2015	Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfection By-Products (Distribution System)

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG (Health Goal)	MCL (EPA's)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N	1	N/A	0	80	2015	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	N	5.7	N/A	0	60	2015	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG (Health Goal)	MCL (EPA's)	Year Sampled	Potential Sources of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	N	4.14	2.56-4.14	10	10	2015	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks or sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
Thallium (ppb)	N	1	0-2	0.5	2	2015	Discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG (Health Goal)	MCL (EPA's)	Year Sampled	Potential Sources of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	N	0.57	0 of 25 sites above action level	1.3	AL = 1.3	2013	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	N	4	0 of 25 sites above action level	0	AL = 15	2013	Erosion of natural deposits. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Notes:

(1) Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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. Hellertown Borough Authority 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>.

For a list of all regulated contaminants for which we are required to monitor, please call our office at 610-838-8051.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 runoff, 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.

Definitions

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 not known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

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.

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

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).

PPM (parts per million): milligrams per liter (bg/l).

CDC: Centers for Disease Control.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.