

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report of the Mahoning Township Municipal Authority

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is purchased water from Danville Borough, which comes from the Susquehanna River.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mahoning Township Municipal Authority at 570-275-1132. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. They are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Mahoning Township Municipal Building, 1101 Bloom Rd., Danville, Pa.

CONTAMINANT (unit of measurement)	VIOLATION Yes/No	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	MCLG/MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Turbidity Contaminants Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.						
Turbidity (NTU)	No	0.17 (Highest Single Value for Combined Filters - Aug. 1, 2008)	0.03 - 0.14	0	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	Soil Runoff
		100% (Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples \leq 0.3 NTU)			TT = At Least 95% of Monthly Samples \leq 0.3 NTU	
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (ppm)	No	0.20 (90th Percentile Value)	0.03 - 0.23 (None of 20 Samples Exceeded the Action Level)	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Barium (ppm)	No	0.029	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products						
Chlorine (ppm) Entry Point Distribution System	No	0.84 (Lowest Value)	0.84 - 1.54	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
	No	0.97 (Highest Monthly Avg.)	0.72 - 0.97 (Monthly Avg. Range)	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	No	34	34	N/A **	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	No	52	52	N/A **	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon Removal						
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (% Removal)	No	1.19 (Lowest Running Annual Average Removal Ratio)	1.00 - 1.65 (Quarterly Removal Ratios)	N/A	TT = 1 or Greater Running Annual Average	Naturally present in the environment.
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	No	0.9	N/A	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	No	0.3	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
* The PA Department of Environmental Protection allows the Authority to test for some contaminants less often than annually because the concentrates of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, is not from 2008. The radioactive results are from 2003. The barium results are from 2004.						
** Although there is no collective MCLG for this group, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants: Haloacetic Acids: dichloroacetic acid (zero); trichloroacetic acid (20 ppb), monochloroacetic acid (70 ppb). Bromoacetic acid and dibromoacetic acid are regulated with this group but have no MCLGs. Trihalomethanes: bromodichloromethane (zero); bromoform (zero); dibromochloromethane (60 ppb); chloroform (70 ppb).						

What's In My Water?

In addition to the treatment and testing performed by the Borough of Danville, the Mahoning Township Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table above shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms and abbreviations we've provided you with the following definitions:

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one second in 33 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) – picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

Maximum Contaminant Level – the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 Containment Level Goal (MCLG) – the "goal" is the level of contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected; however the EP has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. These constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Terminology

Contaminant 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 may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

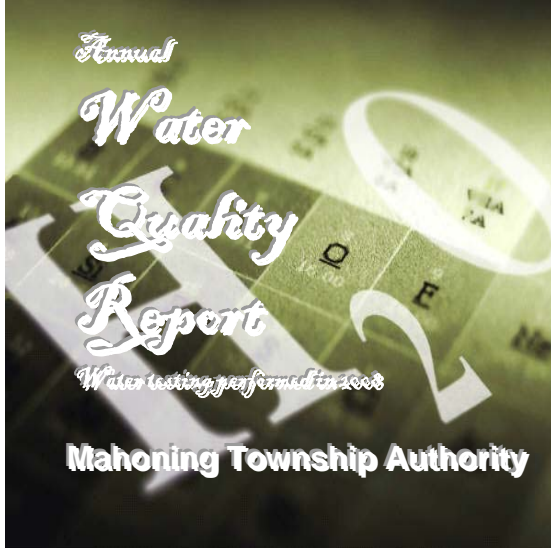
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts or industrial processes and petroleum production and mining activities.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4971, or explore the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's web site.





What Are Drinking Water Standards?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA sets standards for approximately 90 contaminants in drinking water. For each of these contaminants, EPA sets a legal limit, called a maximum contaminant level, or requires a certain treatment. Water suppliers may not provide water that doesn't meet these standards. Water that meets these standards is safe to drink.

The SDWA, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004, is the main federal law that ensures the quality of America's drinking water. Under SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. The SDWA covers all public water systems with piped water for human consumption with at least 15 service connections or a system that regularly serves at least 25 individuals.

Why Do I Need To Read This?

A survey conducted by the American Water Works Research Foundation in 1993 found that nearly two-thirds of water customers surveyed said they received "very little" or "no" information on the quality of their water. The water quality reports will increase the availability of information. Informed and involved citizens can be strong allies of water systems, large and small, as they take action on pressing problems. Also, an increase in public awareness can give sensitive sub-populations the information that they need to protect themselves.

PWSID 4470010



Important Health Information

Some people may have to be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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 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).

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) convened its interagency Drought Coordination Committee to assess growing impacts to water resources in the Susquehanna basin due to ongoing precipitation shortfalls. Three consecutive months of shortfalls have caused streams and groundwater levels to drop well below normal for this time of the year, particularly in the Lower Susquehanna region in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Given the current stresses on water resources in the lower Susquehanna region: SRBC is encouraging water conservation. Water conservation tips for residential users include:

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- Repairing leaking toilets (a leaking toilet can lose up to 200 gallons per day);
 - Repairing leaking and dripping faucets (a leaking faucet can lose up to 11 gallons per day);
 - Installing new shower heads and sink faucets equipped with water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps;
 - Installing water saving appliances and devices, such as low-consumption toilets;
 - Taking short showers instead of baths;
 - Using dishwashers and washing machines only when filled to capacity;
 - Not letting the water run continuously while shaving, brushing teeth or washing dishes by hand;
 - Refrigerating tap water to avoid running the faucet waiting for the water to get cold;
 - Sweeping sidewalks and driveways, not hosing them down; and
 - Selecting more drought-tolerant vegetation and plant species for landscaping and using mulch to retain soil moisture.