

2015 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PWSID #: 4110009 Ebensburg Municipal Authority

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 Jeff Evans at 814-472-8780. 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 every Month on the third Monday at 4 PM in the Municipal Building, 300 W High Street.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water sources are located on Tanner Street near the treatment plant in the Borough and Cambria Township. The water is combined before treatment at the plant. Water is also purchased from the Johnstown Water Authority's Saltlick Reservoir Plant. Water from there is treated before being pumped into our system.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to road deicing materials, Accidental spills along roads, and leaks in underground storage tanks. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment & Protection Web page at: (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 412-442-4000.

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, 2015. 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.

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

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

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	0.015	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	.036	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Results for lead and copper from testing completed June 2013. 20 locations sampled.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level	MCL	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	4	.36 to 2.5	ppm	7/26/2015	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	35-50	48-68	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Turbidity						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	.03	02/27/2015	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	N/A	N	

Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	.048	.048	ppm	03/17/2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits..
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	1	1	ppb	03/17/2015	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride	2	2	.53	.2 to .7	ppm	3/17/2015	N	Water Additive which promotes strong teeth.
TTHM Trihalomethanes	80	N/A	81.7	15 to 92	ppb	12/3/15	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	90	11 to 49.4	ppb	12/3/15	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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

Microbial						
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1 positive monthly sample For systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% of monthly samples are positive 	0	2	Y	Naturally present in the environment.	

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

TTHM and HAA5 exceedance solutions are being investigated by our Authority engineer. These water constituents are a byproduct of chlorine used to disinfect water. Possible solutions are storage tank mixing or aeration. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Additional check samples did not indicate any detects.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 prescribes 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 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 Environmental Protection Agency's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).

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. Ebensburg Municipal 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>.

OTHER INFORMATION: Visit our webpage for water saving tips and Swift 911 information at:

www.ebensburgpa.com Swift 911 allows us to promptly notify you with important information and announcements. It is very important that we have your updated contact information. This can be done by using the Swift 911 Portal on the website or calling the Borough Office.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Ebensburg Water System Has Levels of TTHM and HAA5 Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received in February 2016 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (5) a by-product of disinfection using chlorine. The standard or maximum level for Trihalomethane is 80 ppb our results were 87 ppb. The maximum level for HAA (5) is 60 ppb our results were 96 ppb. The high test results were found in a sample collected at the Ebensburg Airport on Admiral Peary Highway. Contaminant levels for TTHM and HAA5 are calculated on an average value of samples collected yearly on a quarterly period.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water contaminated with TTHM and HAAs in excess of the MCL **over many years** may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Because test results are frequently near the maximum levels and fluctuate through the year we have directed our Municipal Authority Engineer to evaluate the situation to determine the best corrective action to eliminate future violations.

What happened? What was done?

TTHM and HAA5 are byproducts of chlorine that is used to disinfect drinking water. Elevated levels occur most often in sections of the distribution system that have low flows, such as dead end lines with few customers. We don't have any estimate at this time as to when the problem will be eliminated and future test results maybe above and below the maximum level.

Disinfection byproducts (DBPs), Byproduct Precursors, and Disinfectant Residuals: Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water, including trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).

For more information, please contact Jeff Evans at 814-472-8780.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Ebensburg Borough Municipal Authority.