

2012 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP PWSID #: 3390077



WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

This report shows the tap water quality for Upper Saucon Township and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or your water supply, please contact Chris Cope, Director of Water/Sewer Resources at (610) 694-8680 or feel free to attend any regularly scheduled meeting of the Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Township Municipal Building located at 5500 Camp Meeting Road.

SOURCES OF WATER

Upper Saucon Township has two water sources. The major source is groundwater from an artesian well (Entry Point #103) located on White Oak Road near the southern end of the Township. The Township also purchases water from the City of Bethlehem, which is treated surface water from the Penn Forest and Wild Creek Reservoirs located in Tunkhannock Creek Watershed in Carbon County. This water is then blended with groundwater from the Township's Zinc Mine Well (Entry Point #101). The Zinc Mine Well and water blending station are located on Camp Meeting Road.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control 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, 2012. 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.

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MC in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate	10	10	2.8	0.6-2.8	ppm	2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10	0	4.8	0-4.8	ppb	2/10/12	No	Erosion from natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2	2	0.11	0.013-0.11	ppm	2/10/12	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	2.9	2.9	ppb	2/10/12	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Uranium	30	0	1.876	0.1407-1.876	pCi/l	4/25/11	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Ethyl Benzene	700	700	0.63	0-0.63	ppb	2/10/12	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Xylenes	10	10	0.0036	0 - 0.0036	ppm	2/10/12	No	Discharge from petroleum factories Discharge from chemical factories
TTHM's	80	N/A	6.8	0-19.6	ppb	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5's	60	N/A	8.0	0-18.3	ppb	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	MRDL =4	MRDL =4	2.1	0.7-2.1	ppm	2012	Yes* (Monitoring Failure)	Water additive used to control microbes

Chemical Contaminants (City of Bethlehem Water)								
Contaminant	MC in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride	4	4	0.8	NA	ppm	2012	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
TTHM's	80	0	38.3	18.3-54.4	ppb	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5's	60	N/A	30.8	0-44	ppb	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper – Data collected in 2010							
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	0.48	ppb	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.187	ppm	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Lead and Copper (City of Bethlehem Water) – Data collected in 2007							
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	1.8	ppb	1 out of 52	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.083	ppm	0 out of 52	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Entry Point Disinfection Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (EP 101)	1.0	0.99	0.99 - 2.37	ppm	2012	Yes *	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (EP 103)	1.0	1.01	1.01 – 2.32	ppm	2012	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Microbial					
<i>Contaminants</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>Highest # of Positive Samples</i>	<i>Violation Y/N</i>	<i>Sources of Contamination</i>
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month	0	0 of 60 samples taken	Yes* <i>(Monitoring Failure)</i>	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0 of 60 samples taken	Yes* <i>(Monitoring Failure)</i>	Human and animal fecal waste.
City of Bethlehem Water - Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of Coliform in < 5% of monthly samples	0	0.97 %	Yes **	Naturally present in the environment.

* Please refer to the Violation section on the next page for more information

** Please refer to the City of Bethlehem Water Quality Report at:

http://www.bethlehempa.gov/dept/water_sewer/consumerConfidenece/index.htm

DEFINITIONS

AL	<i>Action Level</i>	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level</i>	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.
MCLG	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</i>	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.
MRDL	<i>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</i>	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.
MRDLG	<i>Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</i>	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.
MinRDL	<i>Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level</i>	The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
TT	<i>Treatment Technique</i>	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.



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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- » 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 run-off and septic systems.
- » 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.
- » Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- » Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater run-off and residential uses.
- » Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to assure 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 the 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).



VIOLATIONS

In March 2012, we failed to retain records and report our continuously monitored disinfectant residual data and therefore could not produce records that the data was actually collected continuously for that month. Violation notices for this instance were mailed out in April of 2012.

In January and June 2012, we failed to collect bacteria and chlorine residual samples. Violation notices for these instances were mailed out in February and July 2012, respectively.

The required Disinfection By-Product (DBP) testing was completed one week after the PaDEP scheduled date in the 4th quarter of 2012. Details are shown on the last page of this report.

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. Upper Saucon 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>.

HEALTH EFFECTS

Currently the Township water supply has no contaminants that have any adverse health effects. All detected chemical contaminants were below the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) required by USEPA and PADEP. In addition, the City of Bethlehem reported no contaminants that have any adverse health effects. If you would like more information about these results, please call us (610) 694-8680 or the State Drinking Water office (570) 826-2511.



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.

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Upper Saucon Township

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During November 2012 we failed to promptly monitor for disinfection by-products.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for disinfection by-products and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Disinfection By-Product	Quarterly	2	November 6, 2012 (+/- 3 days)	November 13, 2012

What happened? What was done?

Township sampling schedules did not match Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's required monitoring schedule; therefore, fourth quarter testing for disinfection by-products was one week late.

For more information, please contact Chris Cope, Director of Water/Sewer Resources at (610) 694-8680.

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 Upper Saucon Township.

PWS ID#: 339077

Date distributed: June, 2013

**UPPER
SAUCON
TOWNSHIP**

5500 Camp Meeting Road
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034-9444

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