

**2016 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT****PWSID #: 3060066 NAME: Western Berks Water 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 Matthew R. Walborn at 610-678-4400 Ext 230. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held at 4:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in the board room of the treatment plant, located at 91 Water Rd, Lower Heidelberg Township.

**SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

The Western Berks Water Authority draws its water from an intake along the Tulpehocken Creek downstream of the Blue Marsh Dam. Our watershed comprises approximately 175 square miles of agricultural, wooded and suburban areas. The watershed extends north to the southern slope of the Blue Mountains beyond Strausstown and Shartelsville and west to the Myerstown area.

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: 1. Nitrate and pesticide contamination from agricultural runoff. 2. Bacterial and chemical contamination from discharges of sewage treatment plants and industrial sources. 3. Contamination from roadway accidents and urban runoff. Overall, our source has a high 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 Southcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 705-4732.

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, 2016. 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.

**Level 1 Assessment** - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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

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

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

### DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	2.77	1.93 – 2.77	ppm	2016	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride	2*	4	0.61	0.61	ppm	2016	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate	10	10	5.2	0 – 5.2	ppm	2016	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
HAA5	60	NA	20.5	11.3 – 20.5	ppb	2016	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM	80	NA	24.6	10.3 – 24.6	ppb	2016	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Barium	2	2	0.044	0.044	ppm	2016	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100	100	1	1	ppb	2016	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits

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

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	1.0	1.0 – 3.7	ppm	2016	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	See other information.	ppb			Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	See other information.	ppb			Corrosion of household plumbing.

<b>Microbial</b>					
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"> <li>More than 1 positive monthly sample</li> </ul> For systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5% of monthly samples are positive</li> </ul>	0	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

<b>Turbidity</b>						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.13	2016	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU		100%	2016	N	

<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	15-25%	26.5 – 48.5%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

### **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. The Western Berks Water 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:**

The Western Berks Water Authority is a wholesale supplier and is not required to test for Lead and Copper. Our consecutive systems are required to test for Lead and Copper. The results of their testing can be found in their CCR.

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