



2015 Water Quality Report Main System, PWSID#: PA1460073

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

About Your Drinking Water- Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (Aqua) is pleased to provide you with important information about your drinking water in this 2015 Consumer Confidence Report for the Main System (public water supply ID PA1460073). The report summarizes the quality of water Aqua provided in 2015 -- including details about water sources, what the water at your tap contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Although the report lists only those regulated substances that were detected in your water, we test for more than what is reported. This report is only a summary of our testing during 2015. If you have any questions about the information in this report, please call 610.645.4248 or visit our website at AquaAmerica.com.

Sources of Supply -- Water for the Main System comes from eight surface water sources and a number of groundwater sites (wells). Source water assessments were completed in 2002 and 2003 for the Chester, Ridley, Crum, Pickering, Perkiomen, and Neshaminy creeks, the Schuylkill River, and wells in the Main System. The sources, overall, have a moderate risk of significant contamination. A status report of source water assessments is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website at www.depweb.state.pa.us (DEP keyword "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies, and DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the DEP Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit, 484.250.5900.

The sources of drinking water (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 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 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts 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. Radon is not regulated in drinking water. It is a radioactive gas that you can not see, taste, or smell. Most radon enters homes directly from underground - not from the water supply. Radon can dissolve in water and can be released into air from tap water, but this is generally a small source of radon in indoor air.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

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 at 800.426.4791.

The following table lists contaminants that were detected during 2015 in your water system. The table provides the average for the sources used to supply the Main System, as well as minimum and maximum observed levels of regulated contaminants.

Contaminants	Average Detection	Range of Detections	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	0 – 0.4%	5%	0	2015	N	Naturally present in the environment
Values above are % positive samples each month. During the year, 2 of 3,243 samples were positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. All samples were negative for <i>E.coli</i> . *The highest number of positive total coliform samples in a month was 1 in July 2015.							
Turbidity, % meeting	100%	99.6 - 100.0%	TT	NA	2015	N	Soil runoff
Values above are % meeting plant performance level. The Treatment Technique (TT) requirement is 95% of samples < 0.3 NTU							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium, ppm	0.05	ND – 0.23	2	2	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium, ppb	2.7	ND – 5.7	100	100	2015	N	
Fluoride, ppm	ND	ND - 0.76	2	2	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate, ppm	2.9	1.1 – 4.8	10	10	2015	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium, ppb	ND	ND – 2.2	50	50	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross alpha, pCi/L	1.8	ND – 8.14	15	0	2013, 2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium, pCi/L	0.2	ND - 1.4	5	0	2011, 2013, 2015	N	
Uranium, ppb	ND	ND - 7.6	30	0	2011, 2013	N	
Disinfectant Residual - Values below reflect results from routine monthly distribution sampling at multiple sites.							
Chloramines, ppm	1.8	1.5 – 2.2	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2015	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Disinfection Byproducts - For haloacetic acids and total trihalomethanes, average detection is the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) in the water system.							
Haloacetic acids, ppb	34	13 - 51	60	NA	2015	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes, ppb	47	15 – 84	80	NA	2015	N	
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, ppb	ND	ND – 0.5	70	70	2015	N	Discharge from industrial chemical Factories
Trichloroethylene, ppb	ND	ND - 2.2	5	0	2015	N	Metal degreasing sites and other factories
Tetrachloroethylene, ppb	ND	ND – 4.0	5	0	2015	N	Factories and dry cleaners

*In 2015, the following entry points were not in operation: 101,123, and 139.

Most of the Main System is supplied from surface water sources; radon is more prevalent in groundwater supplies. The average concentration of radon in groundwater sources was 470 pCi/L. The highest level observed was 1,790 pCi/L in a groundwater supply. There is no federal or state standard for radon in drinking water.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in waters throughout the United States. During monitoring of raw surface water sources (prior to treatment), 144 samples were collected in 2015. The average concentration of Cryptosporidium oocysts was Not Detected. The range of samples collected during 2015 was ND – 0.3 oocysts per liter. As a frame of reference, the lowest category of risk has been set by EPA as an average concentration of less than 0.075 per liter. During a previous round of source water monitoring in 2006 -2008, the results for Cryptosporidium indicated that surface waters in the Main System were in the low risk category. Results from 2015 support the low risk category. Monitoring will continue through March 2017.

Contaminants	Entry Point #	Minimum Residual Level Required	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Chlorine, ppm	112, 115, 116, 117	0.2	0.24	0.24 – 3.99	2015	N	Water additive used to control microbes
	103, 107, 109, 111, 125	0.4	0.01*	0.01 - 3.68	2015	N	
	105, 106, 110, 114, 126	>0.4	0.01*	0.01 – 3.06	2015	N	

*Disinfectant levels did not drop below the minimum residual level required for more than 4 hours.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)						
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of % removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	25 - 35	21 - 55	0	2015	N	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper Results								
Lead and Copper	90th Percentile	Total Number of Samples	Samples Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper, ppm	0.38	50	0	1.3	1.3	2013	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead, ppb	2	50	0	15	0	2013	N	

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. Aqua 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 cold water 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 at 800.426.4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require that once every five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water. These data serve as a primary source of occurrence and exposure information that the agency uses to develop regulatory decisions. If a PWS monitoring for UCMR3 finds contaminants in its drinking water, it must provide the information to its customers in this annual water quality report. Below is a table of the results of our UCMR3 monitoring in 2013. All other contaminants tested during UCMR3 were Not Detected.

Unregulated Contaminants Detected During 2013			
Unregulated Contaminant	Average Detection	Range of Detections	MCL
1,1-Dichloroethane, ppb	ND	ND - 0.138	NA
1,4-Dioxane, ppb	0.195	ND - 1.51	NA
1,2,3-Trichloropropane, ppb	ND	ND - 0.169	NA
Chlorate, ppb	122	ND - 838	NA
Chromium, ppb	0.20	ND - 2.6	NA
Hexavalent chromium, ppb	0.28	ND - 2.6	NA
Molybdenum, ppb	ND	ND - 3.6	NA
Strontium, ppb	163	31 - 354	NA
Vanadium, ppb	0.46	ND - 1.2	NA

Notes:

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

Fluoride: Fluoride might help prevent tooth decay for children but can be harmful in excess. Customers in the Main System receive water mostly from unfluoridated supplies, but some areas receive fluoridated water. Operational testing in the distribution system indicates that some customers in the Main System receive water with fluoride up to 0.76 ppm. For more information about fluoride in your tap water, call Aqua at 610.645.4248 or visit our website at www.AquaAmerica.com. This information might be helpful to you, your pediatrician, or your dentist in determining whether fluoride supplements or treatment are appropriate.

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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit (cloudiness of water).

Turbidity: Monitored as a measure of treatment efficiency for removal of particles. Plant Performance Level: 0.3 NTU.

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

pCi/L, picoCuries/Liter: A unit of concentration for radioactive contaminants.

ppb: A unit of concentration equal to one part per billion.

ppm: A unit of concentration equal to one part per million.

Our water systems are designed and operated to deliver water to our customers' plumbing systems that complies with state and federal drinking water standards. This water is disinfected using chlorine, but it is not necessarily sterile. Customers' plumbing, including treatment devices, might remove, introduce, or increase contaminants in tap water. All customers, and in particular operators of facilities like hotels and institutions serving susceptible populations (like hospitals and nursing homes), should properly operate and maintain the plumbing systems in these facilities. You can obtain additional information from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.