

BOROUGH OF MILLVALE

2009 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PA Public Water System ID #5020026

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber.

Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

(This report contains very important information about your drinking water.

Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our Goal is and always has been , to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Frank Albert at the Borough of Millvale Water Department at (412) 821-2777.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water provider. If you want to learn more, please attend the Borough of Millvale Council Meetings which are regularly scheduled the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 pm in our Borough Building at:

Millvale Borough

501 Lincoln Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209

Phone: (412) 821-2777 Fax: (412) 821-2717 Web: www.millvalepa.com

Special Information for Immuno-compromised Individuals

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 persons should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (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 1-800-426-4791.

Where does your water come from and how is it treated?

We purchase our water from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) which draws its water from the Allegheny River. No ground or well water is used. Approximately 70 million gallons of water are treated each day at the PWSA water treatment plant. The plant is capable of producing over 100 million gallons of water per day. The treatment process takes (3) full days and consists of (3) separate stages:

Stage 1- Clarification- River water passes through a process called "clarification," in which silts and clays are removed. This stage involves chemical formation of clumped particles called "floc," which then are physically removed by gravity sedimentation.

Stage 2- Filtration- The clarified water next passes slowly through coal, sand, and gravel filters in order to remove the fine particles and microorganisms.

Stage 3 - Disinfection- The filtered water is finally treated with chlorine in order to ensure removal of any harmful microorganisms. During this process, several chemicals are added to complete treatment. These include activated carbon, which improves the taste of the water, and fluoride to prevent cavities in children's teeth.

2009 Water Quality Table

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of contamination
Microbiological Contaminants	Turbidity (a)	0.11 (b) 100%	N/A	N/A	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement TT = at least 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
	Total Chlorine Residual in Distribution System (ppm)	0.42	0.26 to 0.42	(c) 4	(d) 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Disinfection Byproducts	Free Chlorine Residual at Entry Point to Distribution System	0.29	0.29 to 1.74	(c) 4	(d) 4	Water additive used to control microbes
	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	72	28 to 93	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
	Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	13	2 to 13	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper	Lead (ppb) (e)	90th percentile = 9	No sites above AL (20 sites sampled)	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	Copper (ppm) (e)	90th percentile = 0.314	No sites above AL (20 sites sampled)	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Inorganic Chemical	Chromium (ppb)	5	1 to 5	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
	Fluoride (ppb)	1.75	0.09 to 1.75	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
	Nitrate (ppm)	1.91	1.35 to 1.91	10	10	Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from sewage; natural deposits
TOC Removal	Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (% removal) (f)	No quarter out of compliance	51 to 64	N/A	TT = 35%	Naturally present in the environment

Footnotes: (a) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. (b) All turbidity samples met the turbidity limit of 0.5 NTU. (c) MRDLG. (d) MRDL. (e) Data from 2007. (f) Adequate removal of TOC may be necessary to control unwanted formation of disinfection byproducts.

Abbreviations and Definitions

(ND) Non-Detect- Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

(ppm or mg/L) Parts Per Million or Milligrams Per Liter- One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a single penny in \$10,000.

(ppb or µg/L) Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter- One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

(NTU) Nephelometric Turbidity Unit- Measurement of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU becomes just barely noticeable to the average person.

(AL) Action Level- The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- 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.

(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MLCs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology.

(MRDLG) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal- The level of 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.

(MRDL) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level- 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.

(NA) Non-Applicable- Does not apply.

(pCi/L) Picocuries Per Liter- A measure of radioactivity in water.

(Mrem/yr) Millirems Per Year- A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Should you be concerned 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 Pittsburgh Water and Sewer 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 now available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/ lead. If you would like to have your water tested for lead, free of charge, please call PWSA at (412) 782-7554.

Source Water Protection

PWSA has worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) in preparing a Source Water Assessment Report for our source water, the Allegheny River. This report identifies the most likely sources of pollution affecting the river. These include accidental release of contaminants from industrial processes and terminals; cumulative impact of discharge from power plants; cumulative release of petroleum products from pipeline ruptures; storm water runoff from lands adjacent to the river; and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's). A summary of the Source Water Assessment is available on the PADEP web site at www.dep.state.pa.us.

PWSA has recently developed a formal Source Water Protection Program in cooperation with the PADEP. The purpose of the program is to increase regional awareness of potential river contamination issues and decrease response time in the event of a contaminant spill or other emergency.

What does PWSA test for?

In general the sources of all drinking water (both tap 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. Water can also absorb or dissolve substance resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in in source or raw water include:

Microbial Contaminants – such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock and operations and wildlife. **Inorganic Chemical Contaminants** - such as salt and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. **Lead and Copper** - Because the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water is usually the result of plumbing materials within both the household plumbing and distribution system, these samples are collected from household taps that meet specific criteria. These criteria are: homes with lead solder installed after 1982, homes with lead pipes, and homes with lead service lines. **Organic Chemical Contaminants** - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. **Pesticides and Herbicides** - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses. **Radioactive Contaminants** - which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visiting the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater. The Allegheny County Health Department website is www.achd.net

PWSA tests for contaminants that may be present in the source water prior to treatment. Results of the tests enable us to adjust the treatment process in order to maximize the reduction and removal of contaminants. Tests are also conducted during the treatment process and on the finished or tested water. Additional samples for testing are collected from storage facilities, various points in the distribution network and customer taps.

Who monitors and ensures the quality of water?

PWSA and the Borough of Millvale routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1– December 31, 2009. **As you can see in the table, our water had no water quality violations.** For monitoring that is required less often than yearly, the most recent test results are presented. All drinking water, including bottles water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.