



2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 5020008 Borough of Cheswick

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 Lorraine Zebrine, Borough Secretary at 724-274-5125 or by email, boroughsecretary@cheswick.us. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Currently they are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Cheswick Volunteer Fire Hall located at 1411 Spruce Street; Cheswick, PA.

SOURCE OF WATER:

Our water source is water purchased from Harmar Water Authority/Harmar Township from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Harmar Water Authority's sources of water are three wells that draw from the alluvial deposits in the Allegheny Valley Aquifer, a glacial deposit of sand and gravel along the present-day banks of the Allegheny river.

A Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) study of Harmar Water Authority's aquifer system was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP) in 2003. The Assessment has found that the source is potentially most susceptible to contamination from rail, river and road traffic along Route 28, Harmar Township. Other sources of possible contamination are identified by activity from population growth, changes in industry and land use. The SWAP was updated in 2014 and approved by the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection. Information regarding the report is available at the Harmar Water Authority office, 200 Pearl Avenue; Cheswick, PA or by calling 724-274-8028 .

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, 2019. 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.

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)

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

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

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

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
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (Cheswick)	80	N/A	25.90	(a)	Ppb	8/26/19	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate (Harmar)	10	10	0.90	(a)	Ppm	11/5/19	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine Distribution (Harmar)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	1.24 (December)	0.47-1.24	Ppm	2019	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Uranium (Harmar)	30	0	2.41	(a)	Ug/l	7/14/15	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic (Harmar)	10	0	1.00	(a)	Ppb	09/18/18	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Footnote; (a) only one sample required.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine Free (2019)	.20	0	0.00-1.05	ppm	07/01/19	Y	Water additive used to control microbes.

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 (2019)	15	0	2.48	ppb	0 of 11	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (2019)	1.3	1.3	.926	ppm	0 of 11	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

About our violation on the entry point disinfectant residual, chlorine. Test results on 7/1/19 submitted by our testing lab were, 0.0 , triggering an investigation. In response to the notice, a routine sample was taken from the location from which the violation was reported and measured with acceptable results, 0.36 ppm free chlorine. In an effort to mitigate this from occurring in the future, we have requested that our laboratory, contracted by the Borough to collect and test the samples, notify the Borough of results below the minimum which will enable us to flush the lines and re-test the same day. Results since the infraction have all been within acceptable levels.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

The Borough received 3 “Notice of Violation” for 5 incidents for failure to report or sample for Chlorine. In the period of June and July the infraction was for the number of samples reported, our lab reported on two of the four required weeks. There was because of a revision to the ‘plan’ for sampling which was not implemented timely by our testing lab. The violations related to August, September and the first week in October, again was a documented failure by our testing lab and due to a change in technicians and failure to properly train. The lab implemented a corrective action to ensure monitoring requirements are met. Since October we have reported the required number of samples on a weekly basis

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 Borough of Cheswick 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>.