

## **2021 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](mailto: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 Borough of Cheswick Municipal Building

### **SOURCE OF WATER:**

Our water source was ground water purchased from Harmar Water Authority/Harmar Township from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. 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.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Allegheny County, conducted a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) study of Harmar Water Authority's aquifer system in 2003. The assessment has identified that the aquifer is 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 PADEP. 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, 2021. 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)

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

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

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

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
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	32.58	(a)	Ppb	11/24/2021	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate (Harmar)	10	10	0.81	(a)	Ppm	06/15/2021	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine Distribution	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	0.57 (April)	.034-.057	Ppm	2021	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Barium (Harmar)	2	2	0.0784	0.0529-0.0784	Ppm	08/31/21	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (Harmar)	100	100	2.26	0-2.26	Ppb	08/31/21	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	30	0	1.82	(a)	Ppb	12/14/2021	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Footnote; (a) only one sample required.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (Harmar) 2021	0.5	.58	0.58-1.90	ppm	05/07/21	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 (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:**

As illustrated in the detected sample tables, no MCL violations were incurred, therefore no corrective actions necessary.

**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

One (1) violation was recorded by the DEP, identified as an R3 for the 2021 reporting period beginning 07/01/21 for a failure to deliver weekly chlorine samples. Upon researching the issue with our water testing service provider, they found that the reports for 7/30/2021 were not uploaded to the DEPs system. The testing was completed timely, and the reports were subsequently uploaded to the satisfaction of the DEP, achieving compliance.

**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>.