2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Richfield Area Joint Authority PWSID #4340009

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. Our goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We also want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Our groundwater sources are located on Chestnut Ridge which borders Shade Mountain known as East Well, West Well, Mountain Road Well and Poplar Spring. We are committed to ensuring the water quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Todd Mace at 717-694-0016. We want you to be informed about your water supply & if you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are being held on the 2nd Wednesday bi-monthly at the Authority Office at 6:00 pm.

Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to forested areas, through illegal dumping or silviculture operations that do not use watershed protection best management practices and may contribute volatile organic compounds (VOCs), synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), heavy metals, or petroleum hydrocarbons. Also, agriculture, through the application of manure, fertilizer, herbicides/pesticides may contribute to nitrates, microbiological contaminants, or SOCs could also lead to contamination. Overall, our source(s) has/have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report is available on the Source Water Assessment & Protection Web page at 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 Records Management Unit at 717-705-4700.

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 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, 2024. The State allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does 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 (µg/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 (ng/L)

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
Barium	2	2	0.034	N/A	ppm	11-12-24	N	Discharges from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Haloacetic Acids	60	60	7.8	N/A	ppb	10-29-24	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes	80	80	12.9	N/A	ppb	12-16-24	N	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	4	4	0.86	0.32 – 0.86	ppm	Mar 2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

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

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.40	0.44	0.44 – 1.98	ppm	4-4-24	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Range of tap sampling results	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.145	0.0338 – 0.151	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Violations:

In 2024 we were required to monitor and report Fluoride and Cyanide. The samples were collected and analyzed as required. However, the lab we use failed to report the results to DEP within the required time limit.

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 prescribe 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 some small amounts of 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

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 Richfield Area Joint Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and is removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Richfield Area Joint Authority. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

The Richfield Area Joint Authority prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed by contacting our office at 570-694-0016.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
FAILURE TO MONITOR

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the Richfield Area Joint Authority

Our water system violated one or more drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2024_ we failed to monitor the following cont
aminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?
There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, the required sampling frequency, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which corrective action samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Haloacetic Acids	Yearly	1	August 6, 2024	August 29, 2024
Trihalomethanes	Yearly	1	August 6, 2024	August 29, 2024

What happened? What was done? When will it be resolved?

We are required to sample Haloacetic Acids & Trihalomethanes on August 6 each year +/- 3 days. We collected the samples within the required dates however the lab we use lost the samples. We recollected the samples on August 29, 2024. DEP was notified and the violation was addressed.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact Todd Mace at 717-694-0016.

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