

# Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority

## PWSID #3060082

### Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### Water Testing Performed in 2014

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

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 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 run-off 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 run-off 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 assure 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 the 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. Mt. Penn Borough Municipal 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 available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### **Important Health Information:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report of the Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. 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 Water Drinking Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

Our water source comes from seven wells. These wells are located in various locations throughout the community. The wells are used together in various combinations. We pump during off-peak hours (9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.) using electricity at a lower rate. The water is pumped to four ground level reservoirs and gravity feeds during the day.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our Water System Superintendent, Richard Genova at 610-779-4900. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. at the Mt. Penn Borough Hall, 200 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19606.

CONTAMINANT (unit of measurement)	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
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### Chemical Contaminants

	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4					
Chlorine (ppm)			<b>0.73</b>	0.54-0.73	2014	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2*	2	1.3	1-1.3	6/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppb)	10	10	2.5	1.6-2.5	12/2014	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	n/a	4.5	0-12	9/2014	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	n/a	7.58	7.5-7.6	9/2014	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	3.9	n/a	12/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	20	0	2.4	1.2-2.4	5/2011	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	5	0	7.0	n/a	12/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits

### Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	0.40	0.40	0.40-1.12	2014	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	# of Sites above AL of Total Sites	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper* (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.18	0 out of 32	2014	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead* (ppb)	15	0	3	0 out of 32	2014	N	Corrosion of household plumbing ; Erosion of natural deposits

### Microbial

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect < 40 samples/month: •More than 1 positive monthly sample	<b>0</b>	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	<b>0</b>	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected; however the DEP has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

## What's In My Water?

In the summary table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms and abbreviations we've provided you with the following 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.

*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

## Raindrop Recycling

With more interest generated in sustainable living and conserving money one way to recycle is to use rain barrels to collect and store rainwater from rooftops – water which would normally pour off our roofs and downspouts into the sewer. Storm runoff sometimes can find its way into our wastewater treatment plants. Recycling with rain barrels is a way you can relieve some stress on those facilities. A lot of water can be collected with a rain barrel! A roof that is 1,000 square feet in size collects about 600 gallons of water for every inch of rain that falls.

Water can be stored for gardening and watering potted plants, washing cars, bicycles or dogs! Rain barrel kits can be purchased at home center stores, online or can be made at home for a fraction of the price.

Here are some things to remember if you choose to use a rain barrel.

### Placement:

- o Choose a downspout on your house or garage that is close to the plants and garden you water most.
- o Choose a downspout where your rain barrel's overflow will soak into your own yard, and not your neighbor's property.
- o Place your rain barrel on a surface that allows overflow from the barrel to soak into the ground not where it can pool or seep into your house or garage foundation.
- o Place gravel footing or concrete blocks under the rain barrel if you are going to use a hose to direct water to your garden (gravity will help move the water) or if you want to fill up a watering can from the spigot.
- o Keep your rain barrel lid on tight at all times to prevent children or animals (insects) from entering or falling in.
- o DO NOT DRINK WATER from your rain barrel.

### Maintaining Your Rain Barrel:

- o Keep your rain barrel spigot closed when you are not using the water so that the rain barrel can collect water. Overflow water will spill from the black vent on the top and the overflow hole on the side near the top.
- o Regularly check your gutters, downspouts, rain barrel water intake screen, mosquito screen and spigot for leaks, obstructions or debris.
- o Keep your rain barrel lid sealed.
- o Drain your rain barrel before temperatures drop below freezing.
- o In the winter, keep your barrel spigot open so that the water does not accumulate in the rain barrel and freeze. You can also turn it upside down or bring it inside.

### Preventing Mosquitoes:

- o Your rain barrel should be equipped with a mosquito-proof screen under the lid and inside the overflow hole to keep mosquitoes and other insects out.
- o Keep you barrel lid sealed and free of organic material.
- o During the rainy season, every 3-4 days use your hand to splash off any water that may collect on the top of the barrel. Mosquitoes only need 4 days of standing water to develop as larva.
- o If you believe mosquitoes are breeding in your rain barrel, empty the barrel completely.

