



# Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority PWSID #3060082

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Water Testing Performed in 2016

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 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).**

# 2016 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>, 2016. 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 known as Sylvan Dell #2, #5 and #14, Carsonia #3 and #6, Stony Creek #12 and #13. These wells are located in various locations throughout the community and 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 7:00 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
<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	0.84	0.5-0.84	2016	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (MG/L)	2*	2	1.35	1-1.7	9/2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (MG/L)	10	10	2.28	1.5-2.28	5/2016	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppm)	60	n/a	ND	ND	9/2016	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppm)	80	n/a	15.1	10.6-15.1	9/2016	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	3.9	n/a	12/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	3.1	n/a	12/2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits

\* EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Chlorine (ppm)	0.40	0.40	0.40-1.29	1/2016- 4/2016	N	Water additive used to control microbes.	

<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
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	0.173	0 out of 33	2016	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead* (ppb)	15	0	3	0 out of 33	2016	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

<b>Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)</b>							
Contaminants	TT		MCLG	Assessment/Corrective Action	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement		0	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.	

\*\* 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. MPBMA groundwater rule violations were also late reporting for chlorine residuals for Entry Point 101 and 102 Pump Stations in January, March, July, August and December. The PA Department of Environmental Protection allows the Authority to test for some contaminants less often than annually because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, is not from 2016.

# 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.

**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 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

## WAYS TO CONSERVE



When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.



Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.



Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn or plants are watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.



Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.



Collect water from your roof to water your garden.



Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.