



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020



Presented By
Highridge Water Authority

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: 5650069



Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Water Sources of Highridge

The water system is currently supplied by a series of mountain reservoirs with a combined total raw water storage capacity of approximately 400 million gallons.

These reservoirs, in western Pennsylvania's Laurel Mountains, are located on Tubmill Creek, south of New Florence, and on Big Springs Run and Little Sugar Run, outside the borough of Seward.



What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

The best solution for this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces, which keeps them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in fresh, chlorinated drinking water.

Low Flow? Black Slime? White Scaling?

If you realize that a sink or shower flow has diminished, look for particles in the faucet screen, as they may be pieces of plastic from the hot water dip tube. Faucet gaskets can also break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket.

White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by hard water or water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with white vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.



Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Pennsylvania DEP has a Web site (<https://goo.gl/S8tGjj>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Pennsylvania, including valuable information about our watershed.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

The greatest potential threats to Highridge's water supply sources are:

1. Accidents and spills along the roadways within the assessment area;
2. Potential contamination due to discharge from a small residential wastewater plant;
3. Potential non-point-source contamination associated with farming;
4. Activities using pesticides/herbicides, mining activities, logging activities, road de-icing and aquatic wildlife; and
5. Leaks or spills from an underground fuel storage tank.

A copy of the assessment report can be viewed at the HWA office, located at 17 Maple Avenue, Blairsville.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call George E. Sulkosky, Executive Director, at (724) 459-8033.

Elevated Sampling Event

During the third quarter of 2020, a portion of the water system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). Despite this high reading, compliance is determined by the running annual average from sampling throughout the system. The average for 2020 for HAAs was 38 ppb, well below the maximum allowable level of 60 ppb. HWA treats its surface water and uses chlorine for disinfection prior to distribution to its customers. Chlorination is the preferred method of public water disinfection and has been in use worldwide for over a century to eliminate such waterborne diseases as cholera and dysentery. Unfortunately, some of the chlorine used for disinfection combines with organic matter naturally present in the surface water to form chemicals called disinfection by-products (DBPs), including HAAs. HWA has implemented a different treatment technique to make sure this occurrence is not repeated. Minor modifications in the filtration process have succeeded in preventing chlorine DBPs from exceeding MCLs.

Some people who drink water containing HAAs in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL or MCLG column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Other Table Information Worth Noting

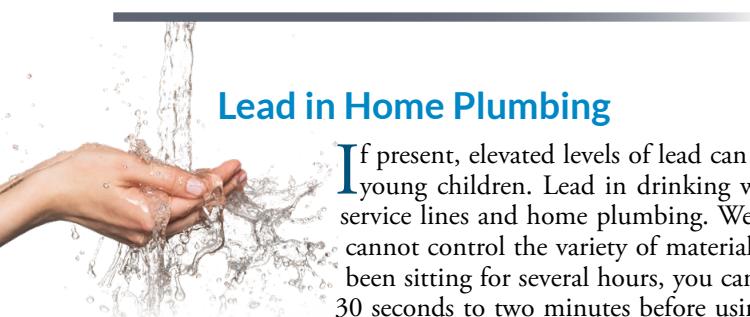
Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

Lead in Home Plumbing



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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in household 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.0296	0.0292–0.0296	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine [Distribution] (ppm)	2020	[4]	[4]	0.93	0.54–0.93	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine [Entry Point] ¹ (ppm)	2020	MinRDL = 0.2	NA	0.8	0.8–1.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Cryptosporidium (oocyst/L)	2018	TT	0	0.30	0.195–0.30	No	Naturally present in the environment
Dalapon (ppb)	2020	200	200	0.5	ND–1.5	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights-of-way
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] ² (ppb)	2020	60	NA	38.1575	12–110	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.42	0.38–0.42	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] ³ (ppb)	2020	80	NA	34.795	8.4–100	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ⁴ (NTU)	2020	TT	NA	0.08	0.02–0.08	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.05	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Bromodichloromethane (ppm)	2020	0.0034825	0.0014–0.0073	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (ppm)	2020	0.0000425	ND–0.00069	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppm)	2020	0.0312475	0.007–0.0931	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2020	0.0194475	0.0071–0.053	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2020	0.00042	ND–0.0024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2020	0.00091	0.00069–0.00091	Naturally present in the environment
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2020	0.0182825	0.0049–0.0545	By-product of drinking water disinfection

¹The Amount Detected value for chlorine [entry point] represents the lowest level that was detected.

²Despite high readings, compliance is determined by the running annual average from sampling throughout the system. The average for 2020 for HAAs was 38 ppb, well below the maximum level of 60 ppb.

³Despite high readings at one location, compliance is determined by the running annual average from quarterly sampling throughout the system. The average for 2020 for TTHMs was 34 ppb, well below the maximum level of 80 ppb. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

⁴Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity to check the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MinRDL (Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level): The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.