

2016 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: **3540030**

NAME: **Ashland Area Municipal Authority**

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 Ashland Borough Hall at 570-875-2411. 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 held on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Borough Hall, 401 South 18th St. Ashland, Pa. 17921.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

The Ashland Area Municipal Authority's water treatment plant obtains raw water by gravity from the Ashland Reservoir in Butler Twp., Schuylkill County. The plant can also pump from two wells if needed during emergencies. The plant was opened in 1994 and consists of two package filters provided by Roberts Filter Co. The filters have absorption clarifiers and multi-media filters. It provides water to approximately 4,000 people through 1,500 metered connections.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to [insert potential *Sources of Contamination* listed in your *Source Water Assessment Summary*]. Overall, our source(s) has/have [little, moderate, high] risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment & Protection web page at:

<http://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 South Central Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 867-4000.

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 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, 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 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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0404	0.0404	ppm	10/16	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.12	0.12	ppm	10/16	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	0	1.11	1.11	pCi/l	11/14	N	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	N/A	41.4	16.6 – 41.4	ppb	3/16, 6/16, 9/16 & 12/16	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	60	N/A	26	9.3 – 26	ppb	3/16, 6/16, 9/16 & 12/16	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.3	0.4 – 1.3	ppm	Monthly	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Min RDL	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	0.2	0.7	1.6 – 0.7	ppm	12/18/16	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

2016 Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	ppb	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.172	ppm	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Turbidity							
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination	
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.75	7/3/2016	N	Soil runoff.	
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	Continuous	N		

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	35%	33%	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

A failure to monitor violation was received in November 2016 for both the Entry Point and the Distribution Chlorine Residuals. These samples were collected on time, however, the data submission was reported late to PADEP. Upon reporting data the Authority returned to compliance.

A failure to monitor violation was received in December 2016 for the TTHM & HAA5. These samples were not collected within the dates outlined in our sampling plan. Samples were promptly taken on December 16, 2016 and the Authority returned to 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. Ashland Area 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>.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with a safe and dependable water supply. In our continuing efforts to maintain our precious resources, the Authority may find it necessary to adjust the water rates. The Authority will make every effort to keep costs down and rate increases to a minimum. Please try to conserve water. Conservation information is available on the borough website at <http://www.ashlandborough.com/water-authority/>. We ask all of our customers to help protect our water resources which are at the heart of our community and our children's future.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.**

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Ashland Area Water Authority

Our water system violated several 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 the period of November 2016 we not complete all monitoring or testing for Entry Point and Distribution Chlorine Residuals, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. During the period of October 1 through December 31 we did not collect the Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in the proper time frame 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 contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up 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
Entry Point Chlorine Residuals	1 sample every daily	30	November 1 through November 30, 2016	November 1 through November 30, 2016
Distribution Chlorine Residuals	5 samples per month	5	November 8, 2016	November 8, 2016
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2 samples per quarter	1	December 5 through December 11, 2016	December 16, 2016
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2 samples per quarter	1	December 5 through December 11, 2016	December 16, 2016

What happened? What was done?

A failure to monitor violation was received in November 2016 for both the Entry Point and the Distribution Chlorine Residuals. These samples were collected on time however the data was submitted late to PADEP and returned the Authority into compliance.

A failure to monitor violation was received in December 2016 for the TTHM & HAA5. These samples were not collected within the dates outlined in our sampling plan. Samples were promptly taken on December 16, 2016 and returned the Authority into compliance.

For more information, please contact the Ashland Borough Hall at (570) 875-2411.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Ashland Area Water Authority.