

## **2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**

### **WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA Public Water Supply ID# 625-0092**

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su aguade beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien lo entienda bien.* (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.)

#### ***PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT***

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Washington Township is pleased to present to you this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the year 2019. The content and distribution of this report is regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this report is to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water.

Washington Township is pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.
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If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David L. Anthony, Township Manager, at 814-734-3117 during regular office hours of 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or mail your inquiry to 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412. For emergencies outside these hours, you may call the same number for further instructions. We want our valued customers to be informed about your water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Sewer and Water Authority meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of the month, as necessary, at 7:00 P.M. at the Township Municipal Building.

#### ***WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM***

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Our water sources are two groundwater wells. Both wells are approximately 65 feet deep and draw water from the underground aquifer north of Edinboro Lake. The water is treated and disinfected with chlorine, then sent through the distribution piping to your home or business.

#### ***SOURCES AND REGULATION OF CONTAMINANTS***

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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:

- (a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- (b) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (c) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### ***POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS***

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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).

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).

### **Information about Lead**

Washington Township regularly monitors for lead in the drinking water at locations throughout the distribution system. Although no levels of lead above the action level were detected when sampled in 2019, we are providing you this educational information about lead for your own use:

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. Washington Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in private homes and businesses. 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>.

## Information about Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## ***REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN 2019***

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As discussed above, drinking water normally contains small amounts of contaminants. The Pennsylvania DEP and U.S. EPA set standards to regulate the amount of these contaminants that may be present in public drinking water supplies. Washington Township employs skilled, licensed operators to monitor our water supply, treatment, and distribution to ensure that your drinking water meets these standards.

At the end of this report is a table that identifies those contaminants that were detected in the Washington Township water supply in 2019. Also listed are the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) allowed by Pennsylvania DEP and U.S. EPA and likely sources of the contaminant. We are required to monitor for many more contaminants than are shown in the table; contaminants that are not listed in the table were not detected.

## ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***

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In this report there are many terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar to our customers. An explanation of these terms and abbreviations is as follows:

- ◆ **Non-detects (ND)** – laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.
- ◆ **Parts-per-million (ppm)** – one part per million, corresponds to the one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.
- ◆ **Parts-per-billion (ppb)** – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- ◆ **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in your water.
- ◆ **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 or 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 Containment Level Goal or 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 or MRDL** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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 the control microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

### ***HELP US TO HELP YOU***

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Washington Township tends to your water needs in an attempt to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources by being our eyes and ears of the public water system. If you observe unknown persons operating valves or hydrants, please call the Township office to question the activity. If you have any questions or comments about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Anthony, Township Manager, at 814-734-3117 during regular office hours of 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or mail your inquiry to 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412, or via e-mail, [washington.coax@zoominternet.net](mailto:washington.coax@zoominternet.net). For emergencies outside these hours, you may call the same number for further instructions.

### ***WATER CONSERVATION***

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Water is not an unlimited resource. Please do what you can to help with conservation efforts. Here are a few suggestions:

- Keep track of your usage. The average person in Pennsylvania uses 62 gallons per day. If you are using more you might have a leak!
- Use water-saving plumbing fixtures and appliances. Low flow toilets, showerheads, and faucets are readily available. Consider replacing older appliances with water efficient units that use less energy.
- Fix dripping faucets and leaking toilets, as even a small leak can waste hundreds of gallons per day.
- Change water use habits. Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving. Take short showers. Don't use the toilet as a trash can. Rinse food in pans rather than under a running faucet.
- Use brooms rather than hoses for cleaning driveways, steps, and sidewalks.
- Irrigate only when necessary, and only during the coolest part of the day.

***Please be conservative with your use of our most valuable natural resource...water.***

## Contaminants Detected in the Washington Township Water Supply in 2019

### Detected Sample Results

Contaminant (date sampled if not in 2019) <sup>1</sup>	Violation (yes/no)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections <sup>2</sup>	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (2012)	No	9 ppb	9 ppb	10 ppb	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (2012)	No	0.502 ppm	0.502 ppm	2.0 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	No	0.84 ppm	0.53 to 0.84 ppm	MRDL = 4 ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	No	15.3 ppb	15.3 ppb	80 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (Five)	No	2.03 ppb	2.03 ppb	60 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Combined Radium (2016)	No	1.37 pCi/L	1.37 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits

### Entry Point Disinfectant Residuals

Contaminant	Violation (yes/no)	Minimum Required Disinfectant Level	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	0.40 ppm	0.47 ppm	0.47 to 0.9 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant (date sampled if not in 2019) <sup>1</sup>	Violation (yes/no)	90th Percentile Value	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	No. of Sites Above AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	0.388 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	0.9 ppb	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

- Footnotes:
1. 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, though representative, are more than one year old.
  2. Where the range includes only one value, only one sample was required.