

**2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**BOROUGH OF SHARPSBURG**  
**PWS ID#5020052**

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

We're pleased to present to you this year's 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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 water. Our water sources are Fort Pitt Wells Numbers 1 and 2, located along Main Street near sixteenth Street near the Borough of Sharpsburg Municipal Building.

We have a source water assessment report available from our office that provides more detailed information such as potential sources of contamination. A summary of our water system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination include combined sewer overflows, rupture of petroleum and gas pipelines, discharges from Commercial and Industrial Properties, and storm water runoff.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Roger Milliron, Jr. at (412)781-0539. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm prevailing time. Meetings are held at the Borough of Sharpsburg Municipal Council Chambers, 1611 Main Street, Pittsburgh (Sharpsburg), PA 15215. Meetings are advertised and open to the public.

BOROUGH OF SHARPSBURG routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

*Not Applicable (N/A)* – not applicable

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million or milligrams per liter (corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000).

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion or micrograms per liter (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 the radioactivity in water.

*Millirems per year (mrem/yr)* - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

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

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*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 contamination.

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	N	1 7/2008		MCL: (systems that collect < 40 samples/ month) 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
5. Beta/photon emitters (pCi/l)	N	7.02 2/1999	(a)	(b) 50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
6. Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	N	0.99 10/2002	(a)	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
12. Barium (ppm)	N	0.07 1/2002	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
17. Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.25 1/2002	(a)	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
19. Nitrate (ppm)	N	2.21 9/2008	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
68. Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	N	2.5 9/2008	(a)	5	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
<b>Lead and Copper Rule</b>						
77. Copper (ppm)	N	0.654 12/2007	(c)	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
						deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs), Byproduct Precursors, and Disinfectant Residuals</b>						
78. Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	N	1.1 7/2006	(a)	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection
79. TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	10.5 7/2006	(a)	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection
80. Total organic carbon (ppm)	N	1.5 5/2003	(a)	TT	n/a	Naturally present in the environment
83. Chlorine (ppm)	N	0.83 10/2008	0.27 –0.83	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

**Footnotes:**

**(a) Only one sample required.**

**(b) Compliance with the MCL may be assumed without further analysis if the average annual concentration of Gross Beta Particle Activity is less than 50 pCi/l. The MCL for Beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be level of concern for Beta particles**

**(c) The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is below the action level**

What does this mean?

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. On July 1, 2008, we had a positive bacteria sample. Subsequent samplings were all negative, Therefore no violation.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contaminants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial process and petroleum 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Please call our office if you have questions.