

**Borough of Pottstown
100 East High Street
Pottstown, Pa. 19464**

2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 1460037 NAME: Borough of Pottstown Water Treatment Plant

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
(This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, 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 Mr. Jim Hennessy, Superintendent at 610-970-6545. 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 at Pottstown Borough Hall every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source is: the Schuylkill River

A Source Water Assessment of the Schuylkill River Intake, which supplies water to the Pottstown Filtration Plant, was completed in 2001 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that the Schuylkill River Intake is potentially most susceptible to road deicing materials, accidental spills along roads and leaks in underground storage tanks. Overall, the Schuylkill River Watershed has moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to Mr. Jim Hennessy at 100 E. High St. Pottstown, Pa. 19464 and will be available on the PADEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (directLINK "source water"). 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 PADEP Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (484)250-5900.

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).

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, 2008. 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 AND ABBREVIATIONS:

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.

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
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.7		ppm	11/04	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	Please see violations at bottom of this report		ppm		N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	33	1 - 33	ppb	9/07	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.591	0.024 – 0.591	ppm	9/07	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	N/A	93.2	14.6 – 93.2	ppb	Quarterly	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	60	N/A	55	10 - 55	ppb	Quarterly	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.15	0.84 – 1.15	ppm	Monthly	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Total organic carbon (ppm)	TT	N/A	1.9	0.9 – 1.9	ppm	Quarterly	N	Naturally present in the environment

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	4.20	ppb	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.3114	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household Plumbing.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.29 NTU	08/11/2008	N	soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	01/08 – 12/08	N	

FOOTNOTE(S)

(a) TTHM compliance is based on a Running Annual Average (RAA). Our RAA is under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for this contaminant.

Special Educational Statement for Nitrate, Arsenic, and Lead:

Nitrate, lead and arsenic also require special educational language if your detected value is above certain levels but below the MCL or AL.

If your water contains:

- **Nitrate** above 5 ppm (50 % of the MCL), but below 10 ppm (the MCL),
- **Arsenic** above 5 ppb and up to and including 10 ppb (future MCL), or
- **Lead** above 15 ppb (the Action Level) in more than 5 % (and up to and including 10%) when taking 20 or more samples, **OR** a single sample when taking fewer than 20 samples,

***Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.*

***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.*

Note: Beginning in the report due by July 1, 2002, and ending January 22, 2006, a community water system that detects arsenic above 10 ppb and up to and including 50 ppb must include the arsenic health effects language.

Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead (ppb)	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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).

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

During 2008 we missed collecting samples for Arsenic, Nitrate and VOC's. When we realized this error, we collected these samples on January 29, 2009. The updated results for these samples are > Nitrate – 3.63 mg/l. The results for Arsenic and VOC's were below reporting limits.

OTHER INFORMATION:

