

WILLIAMSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

WILLIAMSTOWN BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
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Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

2010 ANNUAL DRINKING
WATER QUALITY REPORT
WILLIAMSTOWN BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
P.W.S.I.D. 7220037

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010. 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 safe and 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 and reliability of your water service.

Your water comes from three sources, including two reservoirs supplied by Updegrave Run and East Branch of Ratling Creek, and one municipal well, which is used as necessary. Water from these sources is filtered and chemically treated to ensure that it remains within the levels required by the State and Federal governments. A disinfectant is also added to protect you against microbial contaminants.

The Williamstown Borough Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables in this report show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2010. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

During 2010, we tested for Chlorine Residual, Total Coliform, Nitrate, Nitrite, Arsenic, VOC's, Trihalomethanes, Halo-Acetic Acids, Lead and Copper. We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. As you can see by the table in this report no MCL's were exceeded during 2010. All

VOC samples were extremely below the identified MCL value.

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. Williamstown Borough 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The Authority is pleased to inform you that your levels are well below the current MCL for lead.

The Williamstown Borough Authority meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Office. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Joe D'Agostino at 717-647-4466.

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, 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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

2010 WATER QUALITY DATA

BACTERIA RESULTS FROM THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance (Units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria (colonies per 100 ml) ^(a)			0	0	Naturally present in the environment

Footnotes:

(a) Total Coliform: Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially - harmful bacteria may be present.

PARAMETERS MEASURED ON THE WATER LEAVING THE TREATMENT FACILITY

Substance (Units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.85 - 2.48	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Trihalomethanes (2010)	80	80	49.1	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Trihalomethanes (2009)	80	80	16.0	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Trihalomethanes (2008)	80	80	59.3	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Halo-Acetic Acids (2010)	60	60	16.1	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Halo-Acetic Acids (2009)	60	60	12.6	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Halo-Acetic Acids (2008)	60	60	19.6	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Arsenic (2010)	10	10	2.0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)(2010)	10	10	0.5	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (ppm)(2010)	1	1	0.2	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Footnotes:

(a) The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

LEAD AND COPPER RESULTS - (Tap water samples were collected from homes in the service area.)

Substance (Units)	Action Level	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Homes Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm) (2010)	1.3	1.3	0.034 ^(a)	0 sites above AL out of 10 homes sampled	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb) (2010)	15	0	0.42 ^(b)	0 site above AL out of 10 homes sampled	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Footnotes:

(a) Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

(b) 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.

During 2010, we received no violations.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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.

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.

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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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 byproducts 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding. Please call our office if you have questions.

In the table, you may find terms and abbreviations with which you are not familiar. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

- *Non-Detect (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.
- *Colonies per 100 ml* - number of bacteria cultures per milliliter of sample
- *Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2-years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- *Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- *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* - the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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* - the "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 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.
- *Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.