BOWMANSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT
YEAR 2024
PWSID # 3130021

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water System Information:

We are pleased to present to you this year's 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.

Bowmanstown Borough Authority board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. They are held at the Borough office located at 490 Ore Street, Bowmanstown.

Source of Water:

Our water sources are from two wells located in Lower Towamensing Township. After the water comes out of the wells, we treat it to remove several contaminants and we also add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). Overall, our source(s) has little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: Source Water Assessment Folder. 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 Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570)826-2511.

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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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION & WATER CONSERVATION TIPS:

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water.
Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.

- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information

Monitoring Your Water:

Water treatment plant operator, Craig LaBarre, of Portland Contractors, routinely monitors 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, 2024. 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:

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar to you. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following 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.

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 (ng/l)

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants

Contaminant	CL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (08/16/2024)	60	NA	0	0-62	ppb	2024	Y	HAA is a by-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (8/16/2024)	80	NA	.0214	18-88	ppb	2024	Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) Nitrite Entry Point #101 #102 Sampled 05/09/2024	10	mgL	<1.0 <0.10	1-9	Ppm	2024	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic/IOC's Monitoring frequency; every three years; 05/09/2024	10	0 ppb	<.001	0.001	ppb	2024	N	occurs naturally as a trace component in many rocks and sediments.
Asbestos EP 101	n/a	<0.062	0	7	MCL	2024	Y	Toxic material that forms deep underground in rock & soil deposits
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.17	0.2-3.0	Ppm	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) entry point 101 entry point 102	14 14	8 8	<1.75 <1.77	N/A	Ng/l	Quarterly samples	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) entry point 101 entry point 102	18 18	14 14	<1.61 <1.63	N/A	Ng/l	Quarterly Samples	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is four ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) Monthly	1.17	.94		ppm	2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper								
Contaminant	**Action Level (AL)**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile Value**	**Range of tap sampling results**	**Units**	**# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Lead Occurred in 2023	15	0	.0186	15	ppb		Y	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	.611	1.3	ppm		N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)					
Contaminants	**TT**	**MCLG**	**Assessments/ Corrective Actions**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments **or** correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

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 October 2024, we did not monitor for Haloacetic Acids, Trihalomethanes, Asbestos and Ground Water Rule.

The samples were not taken due to internal issues with the contracted laboratory. We have since taken the required samples. The samples showed are meeting drinking water standards.

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 prescribe 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

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. Bowmanstown Borough Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and is removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Bowmanstown Borough Authority at 610-852-2289. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

Bowmanstown Borough Authority submitted to PA Department of Environmental Protection their Corrosion Control Feasibility Study on December 20, 2023. A copy of this study in the Borough office for public view.

Summary:

Bowmanstown Borough Authority prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed online at bowmanstown.org by contacting our office at 610-852-2289.

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.

We at Bowmanstown Borough Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Bowmanstown Borough Authority