

# 2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID # 5030005

*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 the Ford City Borough Office at (724) 763-3081. 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 the first Monday of the month.

## SOURCES OF OUR WATER:

Our water sources are 3 municipal wells. These are located within the borough.

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 transplant, people with HIV/AIDS or other immuno 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.

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**ppm** = part per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	0.50000 (07/28/2008)	0.36 – 0.50	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	80	0.01900 (07/28/2008)	Only 1 sample required	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Barium	2	2	0.02000 (04/03/2003)	Only 1 sample required	ppm	N	Discharge from drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2	2	1.26000 (04/03/2003)	Only 1 sample required	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10	10	2.05000 (04/14/2008)	Only 1 sample required	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Values	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	0.015	0	0.00800 (07/07/2004)	ppm	0 out of 21	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.02000 (07/24/2007)	ppm	0 out of 21	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

**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 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 includes:

- 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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 amount of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effect can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.