

2023
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Bern Township Municipal Authority

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

We're 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 and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Western Berks Water Authority supplies our water in your area. The water supply for the Western Berks Water Authority is obtained from an intake along the Tulpehocken Creek downstream of the Blue Marsh Dam. The watershed extends north to the southern slope of the Blue Mountains beyond Strausstown and Shartelsville and west to the Myerstown area. We're 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 Lori Hozza at (610) 916-9919. 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 fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:00 A.M. at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

Bern Township Municipal Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. 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, though representative, are more than a year old. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023.

Table Definitions

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant level Goal): 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.

N/A not applicable **nd** not detectable at testing limit **ppb** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/L** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Turbidity: Is a measure of the cloudiness of the water **NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	Range	MCL	MCLG	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate (B)	N	5.76	ppm	2.45-5.76	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (B)	N	.49	ppm	.49	2*	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth Erosion of natural deposits: Discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Sources of Contamination
Chloramines	N	2.56	ppm	1.39-3.37	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA5s (Total Halo acetic Acids)	N	11.25	ppb	4.6-22.4* *	60	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

* EPA's MCL for Fluoride is 4. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect public health.

* Based on a running annual average. ** Based on the quarterly averages for the CCR year.

<i>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</i>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chloramine	0.2	1.30	1.30-3.66	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected 90%	Unit of Measurement	Range	# of Sites Above AL	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Source of Contamination
Lead (A)	N	0	ppb	ND to 0	0 of 5	15 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (A)	N	0.724	ppm	0.055 to 0.724	0 of 5	1.3 ppm	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	# of Positive Samples/Month	MCL	MCLG	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	y	1	1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples meeting TT/month	MCL = (TT) *	MCLG	Source of Contamination
Turbidity (B)	N	0.099 NTU	100 %	95% of monthly samples \leq TT (0.3 NTU)	0	Soil Runoff.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	% Removal Achieved	% Removal Required	MCL = (TT)	Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (B)	N	15-25%	18.1 – 54.5%	% Removal Required Varies with raw water TOC and alkalinity	Naturally Present in the Environment

(A) – Samples taken by Bern Township in July 2022

(B) – Samples taken by Western Berks Water Authority

Footnotes: NP = No Bacteria Present.

***Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. For Turbidity, the Treatment Technique (TT) depends on the type of filtration provided. Compliance is based on 95% or more of the total monthly samples being \leq TT 0.3. No single sample may exceed 1 NTU.**

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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.

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.

Special Health Information

BTMA reports 1 sample in 2023 tested positive for total coliform; the bottle had a slight crack in it and the negative result was reported to DEP before the crack was discovered. A sample was retested and was negative.

BTMA had one violation for failure to properly collect routine samples. The BTMA sample collector did not have the proper paperwork to collect the BTMA routine samples. BTMA notified the public, and compliance was achieved. Additional training of the sample collector was also accomplished.

BTMA had two violations for reports received late. Compliance was achieved and reports were filed.

BTMA had 1 Water Main Break on November 13, 2023 located on Rte. 183. "Boil Water Notices" were sent to those customers that were affected. When normal water service was restored the lines were flushed and the required samples were taken for disinfectant levels.

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. USEPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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).

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**. BTMA 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

The Western Berks Water Authority is concerned with protecting its only source of water. Current treatment processes ensure that raw water from the Tulpehocken Creek becomes finished water that meets all federal and state drinking water standards. To view a copy of the source water assessments go to the Source Water Assessment & Protection web page at:
(<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>)

Water Conservation Tips

The following conservation measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill.

Fix leaking faucets, pipes and **toilets**. The average leaky toilet can waste about 73,000 gallons of water per year.

Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and shower heads.

Wash only full loads of laundry or dishes.

Do not let the water run when brushing teeth or shaving.

Water lawns or gardens in the early morning or evening. Reset timers after power outages.

Use mulch.

Use a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at:

www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

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. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office if you have questions.

We at Bern Township Municipal Authority work 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 future.

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