

2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Ralston Area Joint Authority

PWSID #: 4410171

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you 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 Ralston Area Joint Authority. 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 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Ralston Fire Hall.

SOURCE OF WATER: Our water sources include (2) ground water wells (#2 / #3 located at the North-End of the village of Ralston on Rt 14.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Source Water Assessment & Protection web page* at: (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP North Central_Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 327-3636.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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, 2024. The State allows us to monitor 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:

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.

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

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.

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 ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

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

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Arsenic (IOC)	10	0	5.9	N/A	ppm	02/24/22	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2	0	0.132	N/A	ppm	02/24/22	N	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (FREE) IOC	2	0	1.23	N/A	ppb	02/24/22	N	Discharge from Steel/Metal Factories
Fluoride (IOC)	2	0	0.43	N/A	ppm	02/24/22	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
(HAA5's) Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	1.95	N/A	ppb	09/17/24	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	80	N/A	16.3	N/A	ppb	09/17/24	N	By-Product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.38 (July 2024)	0.72 – 1.38	ppm	2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (2024)	0.20	0.21	0.21-3.17	ppm	08/05/24	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 (2022)	15	0	0.00	N/A	ppb	0 out of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2022)	1.3	1.3	0.021	N/A	ppm	0 out of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

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. Ralston Area Joint Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and 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 Ralston Area Joint Authority / Earl Kilmer at 570-529-0361. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

A lead service line inventory was completed in 2024. To access the service line inventory, contact Ralston Area Joint Authority / Earl Kilmer at 570-529-0361.

VIOLATIONS:

We were required to monitor for Inorganic Compounds (IOC) in 2024. We failed to monitor during the required time frame, however, they were collected and reported in March 2025 (03/05/25). A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to collect and analyze a distribution sample for chlorine residual during the week of 3/31/24 – 4/6/24, the result was not collected and reported correctly. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to collect and analyze a distribution sample for chlorine residual during the week of 7/28/24 – 8/3/24, the result was not collected and reported correctly. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to collect and analyze a distribution sample from Site #700 and instead Site #801 was used, which was not a designated location for TTHM / HAA5 sample analysis. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to monitor and report PFAS / PFOA results for the 3rd Quarter of 2024, but did not monitor during that required time frame. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to monitor and report asbestos during the 2022 year, but did not monitor during the required time frame. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to monitor and report Inorganic Compounds (IOC) during the 2021 year, but did not monitor until 2022. A Public Notification that further describes this violation is included at the end of this report.

We were required to monitor for TTHM/HAA5 during the week of 9/12/21 – 9/18/21, but did not sample during the correct time frame. A Public Notification further describing this violation is included at the end of this report.

Ralston Area Joint Authority attempts to always provide the safest and most cost-effective water supply to its customers. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms, which include bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, may be harmful. The water supply is disinfected and meets or exceeds all state and federal safe drinking water standards. No MCL or treatment technique violations were detected in 2024.

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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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, 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.

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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).