

# ***2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT***

## ***POINT MARION BOROUGH WATER***

***PWSID # 5260017***

### ***POINT MARION, PENNSYLVANIA***

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:** 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 of water and the 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 to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or the Point Marion water system, please contact us at (724) 725-9560 or (724) 725-1111. We want our 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 at 6:30 PM on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at the Borough Building, 426 Morgantown Street, Point Marion, Pennsylvania.

#### **Water Supply System**

A Source Water Assessment of our source (the Cheat River) was completed in 2002 by the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to accidental spills from along numerous roads that exist near streams within the Cheat Lake watershed. The heavy boating activities that exist on Cheat Lake is another potential source for a spill. Overall, our source has only a moderate risk of significant contamination. Copies of this report will be available on the PADEP website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm> Completed reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Pittsburgh Office. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supply systems.

**Vulnerability** 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/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).

## **Potential Contaminants**

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 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 runoff, 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 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.

## **Contamination Potential**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or manmade. 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 (800-426-4791) or visiting the EPA Office of Water website at [www.epa.gov/OGWDW](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW).

## **MONITORING YOUR WATER:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. On the following pages you will see tables that show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. 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 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.

*Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level* - 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.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*Mrem/year* = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

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

*ppm* = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

*ppb* = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm) 1/3/23	N	0.0234	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm) Distribution (2023)	N	1.58 (November 2023)	1.09-1.58	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Nickel (ppm) 1/3/23	N	0.00288	N/A	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	Leaching from metals in contact with drinking water, erosion in the production of steel alloys.
Manganese (ppm) 2023	N	0.13	0.00-0.13	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	Naturally-occurring elemental metal; largely used in aluminum alloy production. Essential dietary trace nutrient.
Nitrate (ppm) 6/20/23	N	0.18	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb) (2023)	Y	58.40 * (4th Quarter)	37.00 – 69.00	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) (2023)	N	35.50 * (4th Quarter)	10.00 – 49.60	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (2023)	N	35% Removal Required	55.60 %-59.60 % Achieved ** 0 Quarters out of Compliance in 2023	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

\*Indicates that these are the highest running annual averages calculated during 2023.

\*\*Compliance is based on alternative compliance criteria (ACC)

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 (2023)	0.2	1.06	1.06-2.00	ppm	11/2/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

  

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper (2022)	1.3	1.3	0.332	ppm	0 out of 40	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (2022)	15	0	3.13	ppb	0 out of 40	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

"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. Point Marion Borough Water 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>."

Contaminant	MCL	MCL G	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity 2023	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.116 NTU	1/3/23	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		99.93%	January 2023	N	

*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.*

**Violations:** We had a reporting error for Turbidity in June of 2023, and it has been corrected. On 1/31/23 we monitored for Distribution Chlorine at 2 sites but failed to report the results to the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the required due dates, resulting in reporting violations.

Point Marion is required to issue a Tier 2 Public Notification on a quarterly frequency because the water system has not complied with all aspects of a November 17, 2021 Administrative Order. The borough has continued to fail to install proper clearwell and finished tank level alarm capabilities and the finished water tank was temporarily repaired without a DEP permit. The Borough is using an average of IFE turbidities for CFE monitoring but has not obtained a permit to approve this method of monitoring.

**Summary**

In order to ensure the quality of your tap water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supply systems. Standards are set in two categories. Primary standards relate to public health. Secondary standards relate to aesthetic qualities, such as taste, odor, and color.

We are proud that your drinking water not only meets but is better than federal and state requirements. Through our monitoring and testing programs, some constituents have been detected; however, the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels for the general population.

The Point Marion Water System works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children’s future.

Landlords, apartment managers, businesses, schools, and others are encouraged to share this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report with all water consumers at their respective locations. We thank you for your cooperation in distributing this important information.