

Southwestern Cambria County Water Authority

2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #4110041

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 describes our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Nathan James at 814-536-7404. 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 on the second Thursday of the month at the SWCCWA Building at 6:30 pm. The public is welcome. Office hours are Wednesday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

THE SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER:

The Southwestern Cambria County Water Authority is a community consecutive water system consisting of distribution and storage facilities and does not have collection, treatment, or pumping facilities. SWCCWA is classified as a distribution system that purchases its water from Highland Sewer and Water Authority. Highland Sewer and Water Authority's Beaverdam Treatment Plant treats surface water from two sources. The primary source is Beaverdam Reservoir located on Beaverdale Run in Summerhill Township. Lloydell Reservoir is located near the headwaters of the South Fork Branch of the Little Conemaugh River in Adams Township.

2004 Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment of HSWA's water sources were completed in 2004 by the PADEP. The Assessment found that our water sources are potentially most susceptible to accidents and spills along the roadways within the assessment areas and non-point source contamination from residences, pesticide use, and past mining practices. Overall, our sources have moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by contacting the HSWA Office and posted on the PADEP website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (Keyword: "DEP source water"). 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 PADEP Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit (412-442-4000).

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).

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, 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. Some of the results are from Highland Sewer and Water Authorities entry point sampling and is noted in the table. The dates have also 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.

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)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

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

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

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

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

Chemical Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	80	N/A	26.25*	21.80 – 30.70	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	60	N/A	20.50*	18.40 – 22.60	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	2.20 (April)	0.96-2.20	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes

*Average of 2 Samples

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfection Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (Highland) 2023	0.20	0.64	0.64 – 2.68	ppm	7/27/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead (2022)	15	0	0.712	ppb	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2022)	1.3	1.3	0.0828	ppm	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Information about Lead

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. Southwestern Cambria County Water Authority 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>.

Turbidity

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity (Highland)	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.11	3/12/23	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU		100 %	2023	N	

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC (Highland)	35%	50.70 %-51.80%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

Violations: In July of 2023 we monitored for Distribution Chlorine and Total Coliform but failed to report the results to the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the required due date resulting in reporting violations. In September, October, and December of 2023 we were required to monitor for Total Coliform at 5 sample sites but failed to do so at all 5. In 2022 we were required to monitor for Lead and Copper from 6/1/22 through 9/30/22 (monitored October 2022) and we were also required to monitor for distribution asbestos in 2022 but failed to do so resulting in monitoring reporting violations. Public Notification Regarding these violations is enclosed at the end of this report.

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 storm water 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 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).

OTHER INFORMATION:

Your water company can **SHUT OFF YOUR SERVICE WITHOUT GIVING YOU NOTICE** for the following reasons:

- STEALING WATER SERVICE
- GETTING SERVICE THROUGH FRAUD
- TAMPERING WITH YOUR METER
- UNSAFE SERVICE CONDITIONS
- GIVING THEM A BAD CHECK TO STOP TERMINATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER FAILURE TO MONITOR

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE
ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Southwestern Cambria County Water Authority

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past years. 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 2022 and 2023 we failed to monitor for the following contaminants : Asbestos, Total Coliform, and Lead & Copper and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last 2 years, the required sampling frequency, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which corrective action samples were or will be taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Asbestos	Every 9 Years	0	2022	2024
Lead & Copper	Every 3 Years	0	6/1/22 Thru 9/30/22	October 2022
Total Coliform	5 samples Monthly	2	September, October, and December of 2023	5 samples each month of 2024

What happened? What was done? When will it be resolved?

Lead & Copper samples were sampled and reported to DEP outside required monitoring window in 2022. Distribution Asbestos wasn't sampled or reported in 2022. Weekly Chlorine Distribution sample wasn't reported to DEP for the week of 10/01/23 - 10/07/23. Insufficient amount of Total Coliform samples were taken/reported to DEP in September, October, and December of 2023; and Total Coliform samples were reported late to DEP in July 2023.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact Nathan James at 814-536-7404.

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