



## 2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 6420021 NAME: Port Allegany Borough

*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 Municipal Authority of the Borough of Port Allegany at (814) 642-2526. 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 second Monday of February, May, August and November at 8:30 AM at the Port Allegany Borough Building, 45 W. Maple Street, Port Allegany, PA.

### **SOURCES OF WATER:**

Our water sources are:

| Name     | Type   | Location                           |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Well #7  | Ground | E. Mill Street, Port Allegany, PA  |
| Well #8  | Ground | E. Mill Street, Port Allegany, PA  |
| Well #9  | Ground | 65 Pearl Street, Port Allegany, PA |
| Well #10 | Ground | 65 Pearl Street, Port Allegany, PA |

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. 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.

**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)

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

| <b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b> |                               |                       |                     |       |                    |               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Contaminant                              | Minimum Disinfectant Residual | Lowest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Lowest Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination                 |
| Chlorine (Entry Point 126) 2023          | 0.47                          | 0.53                  | 0.53 – 0.91         | ppm   | 4/23/23            | N             | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| Chlorine (Entry Point 197) 2023          | 0.62                          | 0.63                  | 0.63 – 0.94         | ppm   | 3/10/23            | N             | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| Chlorine (Entry Point 198) 2023          | 0.49                          | 0.54                  | 0.54 – 0.79         | ppm   | 10/30/23           | N             | Water additive used to control microbes. |

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS**

| <b>Chemical Contaminants</b>          |         |          |                        |                     |       |             |               |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Contaminant                           | MCL     | MCLG     | Highest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination   |
| Chlorine (Distribution)               | MRDL =4 | MRDLG =4 | 0.67 (February 2023)   | 0.46-0.67           | ppm   | 2023        | N             | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Barium (IOC)                          | 2       | 2        | 0.024                  | 0.00 – 0.024        | ppm   | 3/10/21     | N             | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Nitrate                               | 10      | 10       | 1.79                   | 0.00 – 1.87         | ppm   | 7/26/23     | N             | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Trihalomethanes (Distribution System) | 80      | N/A      | 3.57                   | 3.19 – 3.57         | ppb   | 9/13/23     | N             | By-product of drinking water chlorination.   |
| Tetrachloroethylene                   | 5       | 0.00     | 0.52                   | 0.00-0.52           | ppb   | 8/16/23     | N             | Discharge from factories and dry cleaners  |

| <b>Lead and Copper</b> |                   |      |                                   |       |                                    |               |  |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Contaminant            | Action Level (AL) | MCLG | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value | Units | # of Sites Above AL of Total Sites | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination   |
| Lead (2022)            | 15                | 0    | 7.97                              | ppb   | 0 out of 10                        | N             | Corrosion of household plumbing.   |
| Copper (2022)          | 1.3               | 1.3  | 0.238                             | ppm   | 0 out of 10                        | 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. Port Allegany Borough 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>.

**Violations:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023 we monitored for the Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) 1,2-Dibromo-3-Chloroprop and Ethylene Dibromide (Edb) at all 3 entry points, but the results were reported to the PA Department of Environmental Protection past the required due date resulting in monitoring/reporting violation.

### ***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.

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).

**Safe, high-quality water is vital for the success of any community. Port Allegany Borough works diligently to ensure that the water you drink is safe and that we have an adequate supply for our residents and commercial customers.**