

# 2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Coudersport Borough PWSID # 6530009

*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:** 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 Beverly Morris at (814) 274-9776. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Coudersport Borough Maintenance Facility at 46 Damascus Street.

**SOURCE OF WATER:** We have two water treatment plants that are fed by 5 wells, three on the North side (entry point 101) and two on the East side (entry point 102) plus one spring located on the North side in the Catskill Formation.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY:**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has conducted assessments of potential contaminant threats to the raw water quality of all public drinking water sources as required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. This Source Water Assessment provides information to support local and state efforts to protect the raw water quality of Coudersport Borough Water Authority's drinking water source. The information pertains to the watershed that provides raw water to the Authority, which is then treated for drinking water use. The assessment pertains to "source water" rather than "tap" water. Five wells and one spring serve as sources of supply for the Coudersport Borough Water System. The water supply is distributed for residential, commercial, and industrial use. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the report are available at the PADEP Mansfield office, Records Management Unit at 600 Gateway Drive, Mansfield, PA 16933 (570)-662-0830.

**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:** Coudersport Borough Water Authority routinely monitors 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, 2019. 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 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 expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**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 ( $\text{mg/l}$ )

**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.

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS**

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	1.40	0.102 - 1.40	(ppm)	8/29/18	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10	0	0.324	N/A	(ppb)	8/29/18	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium	100	100	3.65	0.894 - 3.65	(ppb)	8/29/18	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural
Nickel (Not Regulated)	N/A	N/A	0.54	0.54 - 0.567	(ppb)	8/29/18	N	Leaching from metals in contact with drinking water, erosion in the production of steel
Selenium	50	50	3.80	N/A	(ppb)	8/29/18	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL =4	MRDLG= 4	0.77 (March)	0.44 - 0.77	(ppm)	2019	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	N/A	11.00	2.63 - 11.00	(ppb)	8/21/19	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

***Entry Point Disinfectant Residual***

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Value Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (2019) Entry Point 101	0.40	0.45	0.45 - 1.77	ppm	7/3/18	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (2019) Entry Point 102	0.40	0.44	0.44 - 2.25	ppm	3/9/18	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead (2019)	15	0	0	ppb	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2019)	1.3	1.3	0.326	ppm	0 out if 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

<b>Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)</b>					
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>TT</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Assessments/ Corrective Actions</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments <b>or</b> correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	1 Level 1 Assessment 1 Corrective Action	N N	Naturally present in the environment.

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.*

During the past year we were required to conduct 1 Level 1 Assessment. One Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take 1 corrective action and we completed this action.

**Violations:** In January of 2019 we sampled for Entry Point Chlorine but failed to report the results to the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the required due date resulting in a Monitoring/Reporting Violation.

### **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

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. The Coudersport Borough 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>.”

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).