

# 2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF BOSWELL (MABB) PWSID # 4560030

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.

## Is my water safe?

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

Your water source consists of two (2) groundwater wells located in the Roaring Run watershed located West of Boswell Borough on the Laurel Hill Mountain Range. The Water Authority also has an Interconnect with the Somerset County General Authority's Quemahoning Waterline. This source is used at times during breaks, high volume and/or flushing of lines. Their sample results are enclosed also.

## Source water assessment and its availability

Your source water protection plan consists of ownership of approximately 200 acres encompassing Well #1 and Well #2. The adjacent properties to the north within the watershed are State owned Park and Game Lands that are regulated for pollution control. The Authority regularly monitors the well sites for potential pollution activity. Boswell completed a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sponsored Wellhead Protection Program to continue to deliver safe drinking water. The Program has identified the Well Head Protection Area and subsequently sponsored a presentation on groundwater to the North Star Ninth Grade Science Class. A Source Water Assessment of the Quemahoning Dam source 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/watermtg/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>.

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Cambria Office Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 472-1800

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

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 on the second Thursday of every month at the Municipal Authority office located at 300 Stonycreek Street, Boswell, PA 15531 beginning at 6:30 PM.

## Public Notification by Automatic Telephone Dialing System

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Boswell is now using an Automatic Telephone Dialing System to notify every customer in the event of a loss of water supply, major leak, water quality problem or other emergency situation.

If you change telephone numbers, please notify the Water Authority at the number listed below under "Other Information".

## Other Information

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Authority Executive Chairman Joseph L. DeBlase at (814) 629-6107 or visit the Authority's office at 300 Stonycreek Street.

## Water Conservation

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Boswell asks its customers to always be on the lookout for leaks. Water main breaks are the most noticeable form of leak, but the common household leak can waste just as much water over the course of a year. Dripping faucets and leaking toilets can waste thousands of gallons of water each year. Energy – such as from electricity, oil, and natural gas – heats water for washing, and runs appliances that use water. So, when you save water, your family spends less money on energy. For more information on water conservation, contact the Water Authority.

**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.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level** – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**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.

**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.

**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)

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Minimum Disinfectant Residual</b>	<b>Lowest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Lowest Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Chlorine (MABB) 2021	0.40	0.43	0.43-1.33	ppm	6/18/21	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (Somerset County) 2021	0.20	1.14	1.14-1.71	ppm	4/29/21	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS**

<b>Chemical Contaminant</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Nitrate (Somerset County)	10	10	0.88	N/A	(ppm)	9/9/21	N	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (Somerset County)	2	2	0.0296	N/A	(ppm)	9/9/21	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
(MABB)			0.1578	N/A		8/10/21	N	
Nickel (Somerset County)	N/A	N/A	0.0017	N/A	(ppm)	9/9/21	N	Leaching from metals in contact with drinking water, erosion in the production of steel alloys.
(MABB)			0.0006	N/A		8/10/21	N	
Chlorine (MABB) (Distribution)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.94 (February 2021)	0.70 – 0.94	(ppm)	2021	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Gross Alpha (Somerset County)	15	0	6.04	N/A	(pCi/l)	9/9/20	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (Somerset County)	TT	n/a	% Removal Required 35%	0 Quarters out of compliance	% Removed Achieved 14%-42% *	2021	N	Naturally Present in the environment

\* Although the % removal is less than 35% it meets the alternative compliance criteria for TOC.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity (Somerset County)	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.092 NTU	11/11/21	N	Soil Runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	2021	N	

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
Lead 2019 (MABB)	15	0	0	(ppb)	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper 2019 (MABB)	1.3	1.3	0.101	(ppm)	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

"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 Municipal Authority of the Borough of Boswell 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>