

2020 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 5630039

The Authority of the Borough of Charleroi

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 Authority of the Borough of Charleroi Offices at (724) 483-3585. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held on the Third and Fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM at the Authority Offices, 3 McKean Avenue Charleroi, Pennsylvania 15022.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Monongahela River

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that Monongahela River Intake is most susceptible to accidental spills along the transportation corridor and “wildcat” sewers dumping raw sewage directly to the river. This intake is also susceptible to a lesser degree by industry and storm water runoff from developed areas. Overall, the Monongahela Watershed has a high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045. 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 Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (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, 2020. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

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 ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

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

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.39	0.20 - 1.39	ppm	Monthly	N	Water additive to control microbes
Nitrate	10	10	< 1.00	N/A	ppm	08/11/2020	N	Runoff from fertilizer use
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60	N/A	25.6	5.8 - 35.8	ccr	Quarterly	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	N/A	55.3	9.99 - 98.0	ccr	Quarterly	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

* Range represents the highest and lowest levels detected during the monitoring year. TTHM/HAA5 compliance is based on the Running Annual Average (RAA) of all levels detected at a specific sample location. The Authority sampled at four (4) different locations throughout the distribution system in 2020. The highest RAA of the sampled locations in 2020: (HAA5 = 25.6) (TTHM = 55.3).

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	0.67	0.67 - 1.88	ppm	08/25/2020 (L) 12/19/2020 (H)	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	2.51	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.234	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Lead and Copper samples listed above were taken from 6/1/2019 through 9/30/2019. The Authority is scheduled to collect lead and copper samples again in 2022 when the next required sampling cycle begins.

Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)					
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Positive Sample(s)	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive, and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive, or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement.	N/A	See description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Turbidity						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.029	09/20/2020	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU		100%	2020	N	

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS:

Total coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

The Authority was found to be in violation of the Monitoring Requirement for Arsenic (IOC) during the calendar year of 2020. Sampling for all twelve IOCs was completed on time in the third quarter of 2020. Analysis results were reported to The Authority on September 9, 2020. The contracted laboratory failed to submit the results for Arsenic to the DEP by the tenth day of the month following analysis as required. For additional details, please see the violation notice on PAGE 6.

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 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, which 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).

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. The Authority of the Borough of Charleroi 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>.

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 Arsenic (Inorganic Contaminants, IOCs)

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. 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. The Authority had been required to sample for IOC'S during the Third Quarter of 2020. IOC sampling was completed by The Authority and sent to the contracted lab for analysis in a timely manner. The Authority received the test results on September 9, 2020 stating that all 12 Regulated IOCs were in compliance with the drinking water standards. Unfortunately, the contracted laboratory failed to submit the results for Arsenic to the DEP. The late reporting resulted in The Authority violating the reporting requirements for Arsenic (IOC).

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, 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
<i>Arsenic (IOC)</i>	<i>1 - Annually</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2020</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2020</i>

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

On January 26, 2021, the DEP notified The Authority that the IOC testing results for Arsenic were submitted late by the laboratory. The Authority then made contact with the contracted laboratory responsible for analyzing the samples and it was determined that the lab had not submitted the results to the DEP in a timely manner as they were instructed to. The DEP notified The Authority that although they were not at fault, they would be receiving a reporting violation for this occurrence.

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 Authority of the Borough of Charleroi at (724) 483-3585.

Certified by:
 Signature: _____



Date: May 19, 2021

Print Name and Title: Chad Warfield - Director of Operations

As a representative of the Public Water system indicated above, I certify that public notification addressing the above violation was distributed to all customers in accordance with the delivery requirements outlined in Chapter 25 PA Code 109 Subchapter D of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP's) regulations. The following methods of distribution were used: _____