

2015 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PWSID #: 3060053 OLEY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

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:

We are pleased to report that our drinking water met federal and state requirements in 2015. 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 Oley Township Municipal Authority at 610-987-3423. 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 at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Oley Township Municipal Building, One Rose Virginia Rd, Oley, PA.

SOURCES OF WATER:

Our water sources consist of four groundwater wells, three of which are located on the western side of the Village of Oley, and one well which is located on the eastern side of the Village of Oley.

A *Source Water Assessment* for wells #1, #2, and #3 was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP) in 2007. The Assessment did not identify any sites that could contribute contaminants. Potential application of pesticides to Agricultural Land near the wells remains a potential source of contamination. The well head protection area for each well was given a rating ranging from A or B (high risk) to E or F (little risk). Wells #1 and #2 received a rating of B (high risk) and Well #3 received a rating of C (moderate risk). 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/watermgt/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 Southcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 717-705-4700.

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, 2015. 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:

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.

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

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL= 4	MRDLG =4	1.5	0.41 to 1.5	ppm	2015	N	Additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five)	60	n/a	5.66	1.3 to 5.6	ppb	2015	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate	10	10	5.89	2.52 to 5.89	ppm	2015	N	Runoff from fertilizer use
THHM	80	n/a	43.6	3.3 to 43.6	ppb	2015	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Alpha Emitters, excl. radium	15	0	3.13	1.52 to 3.13	pCi/l	2015	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual								
Contaminant	Entry Point ID	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	101	0.40	0.41	2.2	ppm	2015	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine	102	0.40	0.43	2.2	ppm	2015	N	
Chlorine	103	0.50	0.50	2.91	ppm	2015	N	

Lead and Copper (Sampling Date – 2013)							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	4.	ppb	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.239	ppm	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Microbial					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: • More than 1 positive monthly sample	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	Not required to be sampled in 2014	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs) ⁽¹⁾								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	0.087	.03 to .087	ppm	2015	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	100	100	2	2 to 2	ppb	2015	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

(1) 13 Inorganic Compounds were sampled at each well in 2012. Detects for 3 compounds are reported above; there were no detects for the remaining 10 compounds sampled.

(2) MCL, MCLG and sources not yet established by regulatory agencies.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

(no violations occurred this reporting period)

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. Oley Township Municipal 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>.

Information about Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

OTHER INFORMATION:

In 2015, the Authority provided 38,058,100 gallons of clean, high quality water to an equivalent population of 2,412 people which includes the schools in the Oley Valley School District as well as the Berks Career and Technology Center. In addition to the four water sources, the Authority maintains over 50,000 feet of water distribution piping.

During 2013, the Authority completed the installation of hundreds of new "radio read" water meters. The meters are more accurate, are capable of recording a history of water use, and can be read quarterly without the need to enter the premises.

In 2012, the Authority replaced the vertical turbine pump at wellhouse number 1. In 2016, the Authority will replace another vertical pump in wellhouse number 2. Due to careful maintenance, both of these pumps performed reliably for more than 52 years, but have now reached the end of their useful life.