



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

**OLEY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**  
**ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**

2023

PWSID# 3060053



*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 outlines the quality of water distributed to the residents of the Village of Oley. If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact Oley Township Municipal Authority at 610-689-0097. 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 at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Oley Township Municipal Building, located at One Rose Virginia Rd., Oley, PA

**SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water sourced from four (4) groundwater wells, three (3) of which are located on Oley Furnace Road on the west side of the Village of Oley, and one (1) well which is located off of Philadelphia Avenue the eastern side of the Village of Oley.

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for Wells #1, #2 and #3 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. Wells #1 and #2 received a rating of high risk and Well #3 received a rating of moderate risk. 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, 2023 thru December 31, 2023. 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.

**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

## UNITS of Measurement:

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

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter ( $\text{pg/L}$ )

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms



**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS - OLEY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

**Chemical Contaminants and Disinfectant By-Products**

Entry Point	Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y or N	Sources of Contamination
WELL 1 (EP 101)	Nitrate	10	10	2.09	2.09*	PPM	12/15/23	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
WELL 2 (EP 102)	Nitrate	10	10	6.60	6.03 - 6.60	PPM	12/16/23	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
WELL 3 (EP 103)	Nitrate	10	10	2.83	1.98 - 2.83	PPM	12/17/23	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
WELL 4 (EP 103)	Nitrate	10	10	6.46	2.22 - 6.46	PPM	12/18/23	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

**Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

Entry Point	Disinfectant	Minimum Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date of Lowest Detected Residual	Violation Y or N	Sources of Contamination
WELL 1 (EP 101)	Sodium Hypochlorite	0.40	0.40	0.40 - 3.29	PPM	3/6/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes
WELL 2 (EP 102)	Sodium Hypochlorite	0.40	0.45	0.45 - 2.19	PPM	9/8/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes
WELL 3 & 4 (EP 103)	Sodium Hypochlorite	0.50	0.51	0.51 - 3.60	PPM	2/9/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes

**Distribution System Disinfectant Residual**

Entry Point	Disinfectant	Minimum Residual	Maximum Residual	EPA MCLG	Range of Detections	Units	Date of Lowest Detected Residual	Violation Y or N	Sources of Contamination
Distribution System	Sodium Hypochlorite	0.20	4.00	4.00	0.20 - 3.25	PPM	** 8 Dates	N	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Only One Annual Sample Required

\*\* 4/23/23, 5/1/23, 6/9/23, 7/22/23, 8/16/23, 9/4/23, 10/4/23, 11/5/23

**Lead and Copper \*\*\***

Entry Point	Contaminant	Actionable Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	No. of Sites Above Actionable Level	Violation Y or N	Sources of Contamination
10 Locations in Distribution System	Lead	15	0	0	PPB	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
10 Locations in Distribution System	Copper	1.30	1.30	0.20	PPM	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

\*\*\*Lead and Copper are samples at 10 different locations every 3 years. Last sampling took place in June of 2022. Lead and Copper will be samples again in 2025

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No violations of the MCL or the MRDL occurred in the reporting year.

### OTHER VIOLATIONS:

The Authority failed to monitor and report the Entry Point 103 results for Nitrate during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023. The sampling was conducted in both third and fourth quarters of 2023 and neither result exceeded the permitted limits. \*see attached Form

The Authority received a *Notice of Violation* for late reporting of daily chlorine samples for the month of April in 2023. All samples were taken in recorded but were not reported to the Department of Environmental Protection by the 10<sup>th</sup> of May due date. After data was correctly entered, *Notice of Violation* was changed to *Late Reporting*.

The Authority received a *Notice of Violation* for a missing Chlorine Residual for entry point 102. The missing data was an operator entry error. The error was corrected in the Department of Environmental Protection database and the *Notice of Violation* was changed to *Late Reporting*.

### 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 prescribe regulations which limit the number 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 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 2023, the Authority provided 38,161,940 gallons of clean quality water to more than 2,720 Oley Valley residents and guests. This includes the schools of the Oley Valley School District as well as the Berks Career and Technology Center. In addition to the four (4) water sources, the Authority maintains over 50,000 feet of water distribution pipe.



## 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 Oley Township Municipal Authority

Our water system violated several drinking water standards 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. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023, we failed to monitor for the following contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

#### 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
Entry point 103 - Nitrates/nitrites	quarterly	0	April 1 - June 30, 2023	July 1 - September 30, 2023

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

O.T.M.A. Well 3 (Entry Point 103) was placed into service, after being out of service for over a year, in May of 2023. Our Lab sampled the other Wells for Nitrates and Nitrites in April of 2023. The required sampling for Well 3 during the second quarter was overlooked. Nitrate and Nitrite Samples were collected for Well 3 in both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2023 and yielded results under the permitted limits. Public Notice issued Quarter 1 of 2024.

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 Oley Township Municipal Authority at 610-689-0097

Certified by:

Signature: 

Date: 1/10/23

Print Name and Title: Bryer M. Eshbach, OTMA Operator

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: 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, OleyTownship.org

PWS ID#: 3060053

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_