

## 2007 Annual Water Quality Report

PWS ID# 2080029  
570-265-6371

Este Informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### What's the Quality of My Water?

The Towanda Municipal Authority is pleased to share this water quality report with you. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2007. The Towanda Municipal Authority's drinking water supply surpassed the strict regulations of both the State of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this every year.

In 2007 our water department distributed over 130 million gallons of water to our customers. The Towanda Water System uses three groundwater sources, two wells and a spring, to provide raw water to its system. The wells are located within the North Towanda well field. Eilenberger Spring is located south of Towanda.

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that the wells tap relatively shallow sand and gravels and are located in an area with significant development and potential sources of contaminations (PSOC's). The Eilenberger Spring is located south of Towanda in an area with little development and few PSOC's. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to the Towanda Water System 724 Main St, Towanda Pa. 18848 and will be available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (directLINK "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to the water supplier, municipalities, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Mansfield Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 570-662-0830.

The Towanda Municipal Authority recognizes the potential threats to its water supply and has developed a wellhead protection program. Wellhead protection programs protect the quality of ground water resources through the establishment of Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA's), within which potential sources of contamination are managed through a combination of land use controls and public education. Our wellhead protection plan is available at our office, which provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Fred Johnson at 570-265-5151 or Thomas Fairchild at 570-265-2696. We want our valued 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 every third Monday of the month at 5 p.m. in the Towanda Municipal Building, 724 Main Street; Towanda, PA.

**Towanda Municipal Authority:** Michael J. Walsh, Chairman; Ralph S. Park, Vice Chairman; Paul DeWitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Charlotte Sullivan, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Schmiege, Member; Paul Sweitzer, Member; William Shaw, Member; Ellen Lacek, James A. Pruyne, Solicitor; Thomas J. Fairchild, Jr., Manager; Fred R. Johnson, Superintendent.

### **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:**

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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.

**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 wildfire.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 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.

## 2007 Monitoring Results for Towanda Water System

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 State Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA's Limits	Highest Detected Range Level &	Violation (Yes/No)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform 2	pos/neg	0	1 positive monthly sample	1	No	2007	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha	pCi/l	0	15	0.4 +/- 1.8	No	2004	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 228	pCi/l	0	5	0.9 ND - 0.9	No	2003	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	pCi/l	0	5	4.1	No	2005	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.075 0.046 - 0.075	No	2004	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper 3	ppm	1.3	1.3=AL	1.04 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) 2 site above AL	No	2007	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead 4	ppb	0	15=AL	6.0 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) 1 site above AL	No	2007	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	1.64 0.57 - 1.64	No	2007	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants &amp; Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Carbon Tetrachloride	ppb	0	5	0.6 ND - 0.6	No	2002	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.86 0.17 - 0.86	No	2007	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0	80	4.5 1.8 - 4.5	No	2006	By product of drinking water chlorination

**Notes:**

\*Secondary Regulated Contaminants and Miscellaneous Constituents has to do with test results of our source water for constituents that relate to color, taste, or other aesthetic drinking water qualities. For example, because our sources are groundwater, “Towanda Water” is considered moderately hard due to the amount of calcium and magnesium present in it. This fact also relates to the Total Dissolved Solids. In any case, our water also exceeds state and federal standards in these constituents.

\*\*Additionally, MCL’s (maximum contaminant levels) are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

<b>Secondary Regulated Contaminants and Miscellaneous Constituents</b>					
Substance	Unit	Recommended Upper Limits	Level Detected	Range	Year 1 Sampled
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	152	54-152	2002
Aluminum	ppb	1.0	0.11	ND-0.11	2002
Calcium	ppm	NA	74	28-74	2002
Chloride	ppm	250	72	7-72	2002
Magnesium	ppm	NA	12.6	2.4-12.6	2002
pH	su	6.5-8.5	7.55	7.4-7.55	2002
Sodium	ppm	NA	18	4.0-18.0	2002
Sulfate	ppm	250	23	13-23	2002
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	500	218	68-218	2002
Copper	ppm	1	0.027	ND-0.027	2002

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> 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, though accurate, are more than one year old.

<sup>2</sup> Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples that allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

<sup>3</sup> Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

<sup>4</sup> Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the AL could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Definitions:**

**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 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.

**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.

**Action Level (AL):** - The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** - 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

**NA:** - Not applicable.

**ND:** - Not detectable at testing limits.

**PPB (parts per billion):** - micrograms per liter (ug/l).

**PPM (parts per million):** - milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** - a measure of radioactivity.

**Su:** - Standard unit.

**CDC:** - Centers for Disease Control.

**EPA:** - Environmental Protection Agency.