

2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 2080029 Towanda Water System

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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 Fred Johnson at (570) 265-5151 or Thomas Fairchild at (570) 265-2696. 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 every third Monday of the month at 5 p.m. located at the Towanda Municipal Bldg. 724 Main St. Towanda Pa.

In 2008 our water department distributed over 260 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 Towanda Water System 724 Main St. Towanda Pa 18848 and will be available on the PADEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (directLINK "source water"). 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 PADEP Mansfield Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 662-0830.

The Towanda Municipal Authority recognizes the potential threat 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 (WPAs) 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.

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, 2008. 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.

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).

Disinfection Byproducts Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	1 Year Sampled	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL= 4	MRDLG=4	0.98	0.20-0.98	ppm	2008	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	80	6.75	1.36 - 6.75	ppb	2008	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids five (HAA5)	60	60	1.8	0 – 1.8	ppb	2008	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminates Year Sampled	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
2 Lead (9/14/07)	15	0	6	ppb	1 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.	
3 Copper (9/14/07)	1.3	1.3	1.04	ppm	2 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household Plumbing.	
	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	1 Year Sampled	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	0.075	0.046-0.075	ppm	2004	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	1.79	0.56–1.79	ppm	2008	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminates	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	1 Year Sampled	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Alpha/Excl. Radon & Uranium	15	0	0.4	0-0.4	pCi/l	2004	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	5	0	4.1	1-4.1	pCi/l	2005	N	Erosion of natural deposits

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.

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

90th Percentile – 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart

N/A- Not Applicable

ND – Not detectable at testing limits

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)

Footnotes:

1. 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.
2. 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 in 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)
3. 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.

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).

Towanda Municipal Authority

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