

WILLIAMSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

Consumer Confidence Report for Calendar Year 2015

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Is my water safe?

The Williamstown Borough Authority (WBA) is pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The WBA's water supply is provided by surface and ground water sources. The surface water source is supplied by two (2) reservoirs (Updegrove Run and East Branch of Rattling Creek). The ground water source is supplied by a municipal well, located at the Williamstown Water Treatment Plant Site.

Source water assessment and its availability

In February 2003, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) conducted an assessment of potential contaminant threats to the raw water quality of Williamstown Borough Authority, PWSID 7220037, Rattling Creek/Greenland Run public drinking water sources. The PA DEP deemed overall, the watershed contributing raw water to the Williamstown Water Treatment Plant has very little risk of significant contamination. The aforementioned report can be obtained at the following link:

<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-59498/RS7220037001%20Williamstown%20Borough.pdf>

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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; and 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

The water sources supplying the Williamstown area customers are a finite, valuable resource. Preserving and protecting water sources and potable water supply is the responsibility of all water users. The WBA appreciates the input of its customers, regarding the water service provided. Should you, the customer, observe a problem in the WBA potable water distribution system, please do not hesitate contacting us at:

Williamstown Borough Authority
200 South West Street, PO Box 32
Williamstown, PA 17098
Office: 717-647-4848
Water Department: 717-647-4466

Authority Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, at the Williamstown Community Building.

There are public participation groups dedicated to water resource protection. A useful link is presented below: <http://wren.palwv.org/>

Additional Information for 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. Williamstown Borough 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>.

Water Quality Data Tables

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.39	0.76	1.55	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	6.42	1.58	14.3	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	4.96	0	7.52	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0	NA		2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	0	NA		2015	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0	NA		2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0	NA		2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0	NA		2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Mine discharge

Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	0	NA		2014	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	<0.3	100	NA		2015	No	Soil runoff

100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	0	NA		2015	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from factories;

								Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	0	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>		<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.024		2013		0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.17		2013		0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Charles Croft, Jr.
Address:
200 South West Street, PO Box 32
Williamstown, PA 17098-0032
Phone: 717-647-4466
Fax: 717-647-9602
E-Mail: wmstownwater@comcast.net
Website: <http://williamstownba.org/index.html>