COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WATER STANDARDS AND FACILITY REGULATION

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# 2020 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

**PWSID #: 5020003 NAME: Borough of Aspinwall**

*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 shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Borough Manager Melissa Lang O'Malley at 412-781-0213**.** 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 the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Borough Building Council Chambers. Council President and Water Committee Chairperson, Timothy McLaughlin also welcomes questions on the water system and water related issues. The PWSA Water Treatment Plant is located on the north shore of the Allegheny River at the eight (8) mile marker and is directly across from the Waterworks Mall on Freeport Road.

## *SOURCES OF WATER:*

Our water sources are: The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority interconnects at two points and Fox Chapel Water Authority at one point, all in the Borough of Aspinwall. Fox Chapel Water Authority purchases its water from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. The water comes from the Allegheny River.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source, the Allegheny River, is potentially most susceptible to pollution. This includes accidental release of contaminants from industrial processes and terminals; cumulative impact of discharge from power plants; cumulative release of petroleum products from pipeline ruptures; storm water runoff from lands adjacent to the river; and combined sewer overflows (CSO's). Overall, our source has low risk of significant contamination. 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 Pennsylvania DEP Southwestern Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (412) 442-4000.

***We will mail a copy of this report only if specifically requested. The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report will now be available on our Web Site: www.aspinwallpa.com. Please contact our office to receive a printed copy.***

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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).

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**

*or*

**EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html.**

***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, 2020. 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: Borough of Aspinwall Collected***

| Contaminant | MCL in CCR Units | MCLG | Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chlorine | 4 | 4 | (a) 0.95 | 0.39 – 0.95 | ppm | Various Average Distribution Residual | N | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| Haloacetic Acids | 60 | 60 | 17 | 13.5 to 24.0 | ppb | 2020 | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Trihalomethanes | 80 | 0 | 48 | 14.4 to 85.5 | ppb | 2020 | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| *Microbial – Borough of Aspinwall Collected* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Contaminants*** | ***MCL*** | ***MCLG*** | ***Highest # or % of Positive Samples*** | ***Violation Y/N*** | ***Sources of Contamination*** |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | For systems that collect <40 samples/month:<br>More than 1 positive monthly sample | 0 | 0 | N | Naturally present in the environment. |

| *Lead and Copper -2019 Data* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **Action Level (AL)** | **MCLG** | **90th Percentile Value** | **Units** | **# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
| Lead | 15 | 0 | 1.13 | ppb | 0<br>12 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.15 | ppm | 0<br>12 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

## *DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS: PWSA Collected*

| **Contaminant** | **MCL in CCR Units** | **MCLG** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **Units** | **Sample Date** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nitrate | 10 | 10 | 0.61 | 0.49 to 0.76 | ppm | 2020 | N | Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from sewage; natural deposits |
| Barium | 2 | 2 | 0.30 | (b) | ppm | 5/30/2019 | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Calcium | - | - | 29 | 21 - 37 | ppm | 2020 | - | - |
| Orthophosphate | - | - | 0.017 | 0 – 0.06 | ppm | 2019 | - | - |
| Nickel | - | - | 0.0021 | - | Ppm | 5/30/2019 | - | - |

| *Entry Point Disinfectant Residual - PWSA Collected* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **Minimum Disinfectant Residual** | **Lowest Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **Units** | **Sample Date** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
| Free Chlorine @ entry point to Distribution System | 0.2 | 0.51 | 0.51 – 1.24 | ppm | Various | N | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| *Turbidity- PWSA Collected* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Detected** | **Sample Date** | **Violation Y/N** | **Source of Contamination** |
| Turbidity (d) | TT=1 NTU for a single measurement | N/A | 0.082(b) | 7/20/2020 | N | Soil runoff. |
| | TT= at least 95% of monthly samples≤0.3 NTU | | 100% | Various | N | |

| *Total Organic Carbon (TOC)- PWSA Collected* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **Range of % Removal Required** | **Range of percent removal achieved** | **Number of quarters out of compliance** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
| TOC (c) | 35% | 41% - 53% | 0 | N | Naturally present in the environment. |

| *Inorganic Chemical Compounds – PWSA Collected* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **MCL in CCR Units** | **MCLG** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **Units** | **Sample Date** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
| Fluoride | 2 | 2 | 0.79 | (e) | ppm | 5/15/20 | N | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

(a) Highest concentration of total chlorine detected
(b) Only one sample required.
(c) Adequate removal of Total Organic Carbon may be necessary to control unwanted formation of disinfection by-products
(d) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored as an indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. All turbidity samples met the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU.
(e) Only one sample required. *EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.
(f) Unless otherwise noted, all sample analyses are performed by PWSA.

***VIOLATIONS:*** Violation ID 38627 and 42997, failure to Issue a Tier 2 Public Notification. Violation ID 38628 and 42998, failure to meet surface water TMNT rule performance Level. Violation ID 42998 Failure to Submit a Distribution System Investigation within 60 days of second consecutive month < 0.2mg/L distribution residual at same location.

***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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. The Borough of Aspinwall 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.