

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Palmerton Municipal Authority

Potable Water System I.D. #3130012

Year 2020

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it.)

This report shows the water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality please contact our customer service representative at 610-826-2505 or at 443 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton, PA 18071.

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 first Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall for the Municipal Authority and the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall for the Borough Council.

The Municipal Authority obtains its water from the deep groundwater aquifer, using four (4) deep wells that are located within the borough limits.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection completed a source water assessment of the sources in 2004. The assessment has found that the sources are most susceptible to auto repair shops, gas service stations, RCRA facilities, chemical petroleum storage, NPDES locations, underground petroleum storage tanks, fuel oil storage, highway spills and highway salt application. Overall the sources have a

moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the assessment are available by writing to the Palmerton Municipal Authority at 443 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton, PA 18071 and are available on the PADEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (Keyword: DEP Sourcewater). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the report are available for review at the PADEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes Barre, Records Management Unit at 1-570-826-5472.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 Drinking Water Hotline.

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 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The water supplied to you meets all federal and state standards.

There were two Reporting/Monitoring System Violations received by the Palmerton Municipal Authority in 2020. TTHM and HAA5 (disinfectant byproducts) samples were collected but they were outside of the monitoring window by approximately one month.

The following table outlines detected sample results with definitions and abbreviations:

Chemical Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
*** Barium 3/27/18	2	2	0.125	0.028 – 0.125	ppm	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
***Nitrate 1/21/20	10	10	2.41	1.96-2.41	ppm	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
***Selenium 3/27/18	50	50	5.9	5.90 – 5.90	ppb	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
***Trihalomethanes 9/15/20	80	80	5.7	5.70 - 5.70	ppb	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Tetrachloroethylene 1/21/20	5	5	1.6	1.6 – 1.6	ppb	N	Leaching from PVC pipe discharge from factories and dry cleaning
***Chlorodibromomethane 9/15/20	80	N/A	2.2	2.2 - 2.2	ppb	N	Disinfectant byproduct
*** Gross Alpha 2/11/03	15	0	1.5	0.0 – 1.5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
*** Beta emitters 4/29/14	50**	0	15.0	12.0 – 15.0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
*** Combined Radium 2/11/03	5	0	0.4	0.0 – 0.4	pCi/L	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
*** Uranium 2/11/03	30	0	2.24	1.04 – 2.24	ppb	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Toluene 1/30/18	1	1	<0.50	0.0 - <0.50	ppm	N	Discharge from Petroleum Facilities

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
*** Lead 9/30/19	15	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
*** Copper 9/30/19	1.3	1.3	.391	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

Disinfectant	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Level	Range of Detection	Units	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Chlorine	4	4	1.10	0.38 – 1.10	ppm	y	Water Additive used to control microbes

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

** The MCL for beta particles is 4 Mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

*** This information is supplied from the most recent testing done in accordance with the PADEP required time frame for this potable water system. The dates listed are the most current. All others listed are for the report year 2016.

Other Violations
None

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

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.

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)

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. Palmerton 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>.