

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township

PWSID 5100141

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 to someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

As you know, the Municipal Water Authority has been in the process of constructing new water lines throughout Adams Township in order to bring safe, clean public water to those living outside of the Borough of Mars. The purpose of this report is to provide customers with information about the water they are receiving and where it comes from. The Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township meets monthly at the Breakneck Creek Regional Authority Building. These meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:45 PM following the Sewer Authority meeting. These meetings are open to the public for comments and observation. Meeting announcements are published prior to the event. If you wish to be included on the agenda for a meeting, you may submit your information to the Water Authority Office at least one week prior to the upcoming meeting. The Water Authority Office is located in the new township building located at 690 Valencia Road and can be reached at (724) 625-3166, fax (724) 625-3134.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The water supplied to you by the MWAAT is purchased from the West View Water Authority (www.westviewwater.org). The main source of West View Water Authority is the Ohio River, but emergency wells are maintained on both Neville and Davies Islands. Our community is one of twenty-nine served by West View from the water Treatment Plant located on the northern tip of Neville Island, where it goes through several treatment processes to insure its quality. Once the water has been screened, it moves through a mixing chamber where the necessary treatment chemicals are added to coagulate the fine unwanted particles in the water. Next, the water enters clarifiers where the coagulated particles are allowed to settle out prior to passing through the granular activated carbon filters which remove any remaining unwanted particles along with color, taste and odor. Finally, Ultraviolet Disinfection along with chlorine is used to kill bacteria, fluoride is added to aid in the prevention of tooth decay and the water is pH stabilized with sodium hydroxide. The clean water is stored in the clearwell of the treatment plant until pumped to the pipes and tanks of the distribution system.

HOW DO CONTAMINANTS ENTER THE WATER SUPPLY?

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).

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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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** 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. **Turbidity** is naturally occurring sediment in the water, which can interfere with the disinfection process.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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: 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: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

The average Chlorine (Cl₂) residual detected for 2015 was 0.93 ppm, the highest was 1.10 ppm, the lowest was 0.74 ppm Chlorine is added as a disinfectant necessary for the control of microbial contaminants. Chloramines were added during the months of April - November

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.6	N/A	7/23/15	No	Runoff from Fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppb)	1	1	<0.01	N/A	7/23/15	No	Runoff from Fertilizer use; from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.03	N/A	1/13/15	No	Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.6	N/A	1/13/15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive for dental health
Microbiological Contaminants**							
Total Organic Carbon (% removed)	35%	N/A	38-56%	N/A	yr. 2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (Conventional or Direct Filtration) (NTU (in 95% of samples/month))	0	TT	N/A	0.090 highest detect	yr. 2015	No	Soil Runoff
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	0.8	N/A	8/11/15	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE (continued)

Radioactive Contaminants

Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	N/D	N/A	yr. 2011	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta Particles
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Disinfection By-Products	MCLG	MCL	Highest Running Average	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	55	38 -73	Year 2015	No	Disinfection By-product

Haloacetic Acids HA5s (ppb)	N/A	60	9	3-14	Year 2015	No	Disinfection By-product
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Contaminants (units)

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Sources
Copper (ppm) **	1.3	1.3	0.168	0	yr. 2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of Household plumbing systems

Lead (ppb)**	0	15	0	0	yr. 2013	No	Corrosion of household Plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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**** Twenty samples were taken throughout the distribution system and tested for lead and copper. None of the 20 samples tested exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) or the action level (AL). "Your Water" figures are a 90% average of the 20 samples tested.**

Units Description:

NA: Not applicable

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ND: Not detected

NR: Not reported

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

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

Additional Information

Other Information:

Monitoring/Reporting – Violations and Notifications

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

Additional Testing

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): No VOCs were detected during the 2015 reporting year.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In addition to the required testing, West View voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, or have any questions about The Municipal Authority of the Borough of West View, contact Ms. Brandy Braun, Chemist at (412) 931-3292

Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. During the calendar year 2007, the presence of cryptosporidium in the source water was tested for, but not detected.

Lead in Drinking Water

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 material components associated with service line and home plumbing. The Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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).

New Billing and Payment Options for MWAAT Customers

Starting this fall, customers of MWAAT will have several new online options regarding their monthly bill and payment, thanks to an upgrade to the Authority's billing and collection system. You'll have access to our new online Customer Portal that will allow you to request your bill be sent via email instead of through the US mail: you'll be able to pay online by credit card, debit card or 'echeck' (ACH), with email receipts; and you can set up recurring credit card or ACH payments. Other options include being notified about your new bill via email, and you will be able to retrieve a copy of your bill or your complete transaction history, without having to call the office. We'll keep posted on this exciting new feature as it becomes available!

Questions or Comments? Contact: Matthew A. Cranmer - Manager/Operator
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