

2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Somerset County General Authority - PWSID #4560009

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.)

The Somerset County General Authority takes great pleasure in presenting our 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides information about your water quality and what it means. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. If you would like to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM, in the Commissioner's Board Room.

Our water source is surface water from the Quemahoning Reservoir, which is located in Somerset County and spans portions of Conemaugh, Jenner, and Quemahoning Townships. The reservoir is owned by the Cambria-Somerset Authority (CSA). We purchase raw water from the CSA and process it through our water treatment plant where it is treated to remove contaminants, filtered, and disinfected with chlorine before entering the distribution system.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2022 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2022. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

In this table, you may find terms and abbreviations that you are not familiar with. The following definitions have been provided to help you better understand this data:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - a measure of radioactivity

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Table 3: Turbidity						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.140	3/5/22	No	Soil Runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples \leq 0.3 NTU		100%	2022	No	

Table 4: Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of % Removal Achieved	Number of Quarters out of Compliance	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	35%	22% - 36%	None*	No	Naturally present in the environment

*Alternative Compliance Criteria (ACC) were used to determine compliance

Table 5: Microbial					
Contaminant	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Table 6: Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Positive Sample(s)	Violation Yes/No	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .	0	1	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions:

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed, with no deficiencies being found. In January of 2022, we detected total coliform bacteria and *E.coli* in our routine monthly bacteria samples. Check samples were immediately taken and were found to be free of any total coliform bacteria or *E.coli*. Since the check samples were clear, there was no confirmation of contamination and therefore, no violation of the *E.coli* MCL occurred.

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 storm water 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 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.
- ... 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) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.