

# ***2019 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 2019 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 have any questions or concerns about this report or your water utility, please contact Terry Stutzman or Matthew Estep at (814)-629-9460. 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 3:00PM, 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 the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2019 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019. 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** - 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.

**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 contamination.

**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.

Table 1: Entry Point Disinfectant Residual						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (ppm)	No	1.10	1.10 -1.63	2019	0.20	Water additive used to control microbes

Table 2: Chemical Contaminants						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (ppm)	No	1.36	1.02 – 1.36	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppm)	No	0.0326	-	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppm)	No	0.0018	-	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	No	0.94	-	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	No	39.1	-	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	No	47.5	-	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.2	-	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

<b>Table 3: Turbidity</b>						
<b>Contaminant</b> (Unit of Measurement)	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Major Sources in Drinking Water</b>
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.26	8/27/19	No	Soil Runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples $\leq$ 0.3 NTU		100%	2019	No	

<b>Table 4: Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>					
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Range of % Removal Required</b>	<b>Range of % Removal Achieved</b>	<b>Number of Quarters out of Compliance</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Major Sources in Drinking Water</b>
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	35%	17% - 39%	None*	No	Naturally present in the environment

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

**Other Information:**

In June of 2019, we received a monitoring/reporting violation from the DEP for failing to report our June 2019 distribution chlorine results. We investigated the violation and found that the report was submitted to the DEP a day late. The distribution chlorine samples were taken on time.

**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>.

**Infants and young children** are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water.