

Water Quality Report



The Big Spring in Bellefonte Bellefonte

We're pleased to present to you the **2014 Annual Water Quality Report**. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and our constant goal to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We have put together a table that reflects the water test results for the **2014** calendar year and have included terms and abbreviations to help you understand the table.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager at the Bellefonte Borough Office, 236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA or call 814-355-1501. You may also direct inquiries concerning our water system to the Bellefonte Borough Authority, which meets the 1st

Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Bellefonte Borough building. The Bellefonte Borough Authority is responsible for setting rates and policy for the system.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 contami-

nants, 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 run-off, 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.

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Is The Water Safe For Everyone To Drink?

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).

However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. 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, and some elderly and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to reduce the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at 1-800-426-4791 or the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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 Bellefonte Borough 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>.

Our Distribution System

The Big Spring, our water source, produces approximately 15 million gallons of water per day. From the Big Spring water is pumped to the manmade reservoir at the top of the hill on South Allegheny Street.

From this reservoir, water is then gravity fed to a portion of the town's customers. Like the Big Spring, the reservoir is covered to protect the water quality. Water is also pumped to the standpipe on Hughes Street.

A second holding facility is located on the south side of the borough on Hughes Street behind the high school football field. Water from the large, blue tank is gravity fed to the remaining portion of the borough. Some lines do extend outside the borough. At various points in the system, small pump stations exist to add pressure for the water system.

Water Quality Data Table

The table on the next page lists the drinking water contaminant that we detected during the calendar year of this report, as well as some historical data. The presence of a contaminant 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 this 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:

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

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.

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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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.

NA: Not Applicable

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

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

ppb: parts per billion

CHEMICAL RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE							
Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.0221	N/A	10/18/12		Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	.24 (ppb)	N/A	6/11/14	No	Residue of banned insecticide. Some people who drink water containing endrin in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver problems.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.89	N/A	7/17/14	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes		80	1.54	N/A	9/11/14	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Some people who drink water containing total trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and increased risk of cancer.
Total Coliform Presence		More than 1 positive monthly sample	2	0 – 2.	9/4/14	No	Naturally present in the environment
ENTRY POINT DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.85 at EP 101 1.8 at EP 101 1.0 at EP 102 1.32 at EP 102	.85- 1.32	9/14/14 9/27/14 12/18/14 10/6/14	No	Water additive used to control microbes
DISTRIBUTION DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	Month of Highest AVG result = Mar	Highest AVR. Result = .58	.46-.58		No	Water additive used to control microbes
LEAD AND COPPER (2013 Testing)							
Contaminant	Action Level	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	
Lead	15	0	1.03	ppb	0 out of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	.0978	ppm	0 out of 5	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

PUBLIC NOTICE – VIOLATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Bellefonte Borough Authority

Our water system violated drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*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. During 2014 we missed taking samples at one location for **Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids Five** and cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

We did not take as many samples we are supposed to take, and on March 19th, 2015 follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples required	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples Were taken
Trihalomethanes	Annually	2 sets	1 set	9/10/14 +/- 3 days	One set taken on time. Other set taken on 3/19/15.
Haloacetic Acids Five	Annually	2 sets	1 set	9/10/14 +/- 3 days	One set taken on time. Other set taken on 3/19/15.

What happened? What was done?

Required sampling was erroneously overlooked. Make up samples were taken based on instructions provided by DEP.

For more information, please contact the Borough Office at 814-355-1501.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

BELLEFONTE WATER SYSTEM

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bellefonte Borough Waterworks is to "contribute to the well-being of our community through the provision of an adequate supply of high-quality drinking water."

Please call our office at 814-355-1501 if you have questions. We ask that all our customers help us protect our Big Spring water source, which is the reason Bellefonte, meaning "beautiful fountain," was founded here in the first place. If we work together, we can accomplish great things.

Water Quality Report

Bellefonte Borough Offices
236 West Lamb Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellefonte, PA
Permit No. 118



inside...

Your Consumer Report on the Bellefonte Borough Water System for calendar year 2014.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.