Blawnox Borough

376 Freeport Road, Blawnox, PA 15238

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR YEAR 2015

PWS ID No. 5020004

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo 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.)***

Blawnox Borough is pleased to present our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report covering all water testing performed between January 1, and December 31, 2015. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact Randall Stoddard, Borough Council Member, at (412) 828-4141. We want our customers to be informed about their water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings, which are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the Borough Building, 376 Freeport Road, Blawnox, PA.

Where does our water come from?

Blawnox Borough purchases its water from Fox Chapel Authority (FCA), which in turn, purchases its water from Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA). Our water is obtained by PWSA and is treated surface water from the Allegheny River. PWSA treats the water it obtains from the Allegheny River at the PWSA Water Treatment Plant, located on the north shore of the Allegheny River at the eight (8) mile marker directly across from the Waterworks Mall on Freeport Road. A *Source Water Assessment* of the Allegheny River was completed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The Assessment has found that the Allegheny River is potentially most susceptible to contamination from transportation corridors, boating traffic, auto repair shops, utility substations, combined sewer outfalls, petroleum pipelines, storm water runoff from residential developments and abandoned mines, and power plants. Overall, the Allegheny River has a moderate risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available at http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm or by calling the ***PA DEP Southwest Regional Office*** at **(412) 442-4000**. To learn more about our watershed, go to the U.S. EPA Surf Your Watershed at www.epa.gov/surf.

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* at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

Water Testing Results

Blawnox Borough routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal, state, and local requirements. The tables on the following pages show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The year that monitoring was done is noted on the results tables.

Fox Chapel Authority, our supplier, conducted sampling for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those for which 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. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Tom Ross at 412-963-0212 or by stopping at the FCA office at 255 Alpha Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

BLAWNOX BOROUGH TESTING RESULTS

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Free Chlorine (ppm) Residual in Distribution System	No	0.4	0.05 - 0.4	4 [(a)]	4 [(a)]	Water additive for disinfection
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	No	44.6	17.5-73	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	No	5.75	0-15	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	**Violation Yes/No**	**90th Percentile**	**Results**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
LEAD AND COPPER RULE (2013)						
Copper (ppm)	No	0.125	No sites above AL out of 14 sampled	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion
Lead (ppb)	No	0	No sites above AL out of 14 sampled	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

No total coliform bacteria were detected in 2015!

PWSA TESTING RESULTS

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
INORGANIC AND ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.749	0.749-0.749	2	2 [(c)]	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	No	0.736	0.43-1.29	10	10	Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from sewage; natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	No	0.05	0.05-0.05	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

PWSA TESTING RESULTS (continued)						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	**Violation Yes/No**	**Average Level Detected**	**Range**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON						
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) [(d)] (% Removal)	No	No Quarter Out of Compliance	33.3-46.5%	N/A	TT=35%	Naturally present in the environment
FOX CHAPEL AUTHORITY UCMR 3 (2014)						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorate (ppb)	NA	64	60-68	NA	NA	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection
Chromium (ppb)	NA	0.38	0.00-0.38	NA	NA	Discharge from Steel & Plating Mills & Wood Preservation
Chromium 6 (ppb)	NA	0.33	0.22-0.38	NA	NA	Discharge from Steel & Plating Mills & Wood Preservation
Strontium (ppb)	NA	86	62-110	NA	NA	From Bedrock Aquifers that are rich in Strontium Minerals
Vanadium (ppb)	NA	1.2	0-1.2	NA	NA	Drainage from Fossil Fuel Disposal Sites

Table Footnotes:

[(a)] MRDLG/MRDL

[(b)] All turbidity samples met the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU.

[(c)] EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

[(d)] Adequate removal of TOC may be necessary to control formation of disinfection byproducts.

Glossary

To help you better understand the tables on the previous pages, the following definitions have been provided:

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

Less Than **(<) –** This sign indicates that the sample result is actually below the stated number.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (Min RDL) – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Not Applicable (N/A) – Does not apply.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - One part per million or milligrams per liter; 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 or micrograms per liter; corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Turbidity - A measure of the clarity of the water.

Additional Information

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals or radioactive materials. 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 the Environmental Protection Agency's ***Safe Drinking Water Hotline*** at **(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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants**, such as disease-causing viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Chemical 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 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 end result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Should You Be Concerned About Lead?

If present, elevated levels of lead in water 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. Blawnox Borough 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 the EPA's website at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**.

Violation: In the third quarter of 2015, the lab failed to report total trihaolomethanes on time.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
FAILURE TO MONITOR

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN 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 First Quarter 2016 TTHM HAA5

Our water system violated several 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 1-1-2016/3-31-2016 we Failed to Monotor for TTHM & HAA5 during the required period and therefore 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.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for TTHM and HAA5 and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM	1/quarter	0	February 12, 2016	April 13, 2016
HAA5	1/quarter	0	February 12, 2016	April 13, 2016

What happened? What was done?

The Accredited laboratory neglected to sample in the correct time period.

For more information, please contact Randall Stoddard at 412-828-4141.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by the Borough of Blawnox.

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