

# **Blawnox Borough**

376 Freeport Road, Blawnox, PA 15238

## **ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR YEAR 2018**

**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, 2018. 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 2nd 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. In 2002, *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](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

### **IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION**

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 (from their health care providers) about drinking the water. 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 1-800-426-4791**

or

**EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html).**

### **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, 2018 through December 31, 2018. 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 Don Kendrick at 412-963-0212 or by stopping at the FCA office at 255 Alpha Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

## BLAWNOX BOROUGH TESTING RESULTS

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	MRDLG	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) Residual in Distribution System	No	.54 (a)	0.02- 0.54	4	2018	Water additive for disinfection

### VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	No	40	19-73	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	No	3	0-6	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### LEAD AND COPPER RULE

#### LEAD AND COPPER RULE Round One

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	No	.090	1 site above AL out of 20 sampled	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion
Lead (ppb)	No	3	No sites above AL out of 20 sampled	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion

#### LEAD AND COPPER RULE Round Two

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	No	0.106	No sites above AL out of 20 sampled	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion
Lead (ppb)	No	2	No sites above AL out of 20 sampled	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits erosion

### MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

No total coliform bacteria were detected in 2018!

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	0.780	b	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	No	0.74	0.50-.074	10	10	Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from sewage; natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	No	0.42	b	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON						
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) <sup>(c)</sup> (% Removal)	No	No Quarter Out of Compliance	45%-51%	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:**

<sup>(a)</sup> lowest concentration of total chlorine detected.

<sup>(b)</sup> Only one sample required.

<sup>(c)</sup> Adequate removal of TOC may be necessary to control formation of disinfection byproducts.

## GLOSSARY

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**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** - 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** - 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.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr.)** – A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – A measure of turbidity, or the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non Applicable (NA)** – Does not apply.

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

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

**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.

**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 water.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with safe, high quality water this year. We at Blawnox Borough work to provide top quality water to every home and business we serve. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Since a number of federal acts passed, such as the Public Health, Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act and the Homeland Security Act, small water systems like ours are actively involved in security issues. We ask that our customers who live near our remote tank sites, pumping facilities and fire hydrants to notify the Borough Office or Police if they notice any suspicious activity and we will investigate.

## 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. 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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 before it is treated 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 and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

**Nitrates**: As a precaution, we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Our water is treated according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration 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>.