

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Belle Vernon

PWSID# 5260004

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.)

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS

We are once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2020. The events of the past few years have presented many of us with challenges we could not have imagined. Yet, in spite of this we have maintained our high standards in an effort to continue delivering the best quality drinking water possible. There may be other hurdles in the future but know that we will always stand behind you and the drinking water we work diligently to provide.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions, we are always available to assist you.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Guy Kruppa, Authority Superintendent, at (724) 929-8138.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

You are invited to participate in our public meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at the Belle Vernon Municipal Building, 10 Main Street, Belle Vernon, PA.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The Belle Vernon Municipal Authority's source provider for the year 2020 was the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. The source of this water is the Youghiogheny River, produced by the Indian Creek Water Treatment Plant. We purchase water from them to deliver clean and safe water for consumption. As of August 1, 2017, as mandated by the PADEP, the Belle Vernon Municipal Authority de-commissioned their Water Treatment Plant.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline.

SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to ensure clean, safe water for public consumption. These test results are summarized on the tables in the following pages of this report. Since we are not the producer of the drinking water, The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County's Annual Water Quality Report can be viewed electronically as well. We encourage you to visit www.mawc.org/ccr.

SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

LEAD AND DRINKING WATER

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. We are 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

DEFINITIONS

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): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

Disinfectants and Disinfection byproducts								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Free Chlorine (distribution)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	1.72	0.61-1.72	ppm	2020	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Chlorine (distribution)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	1.81	1.15-1.81	ppm	2020	N	Water additive used to control microbes
*Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60	NA	55.2	46.2-55.2	ppb	2020	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
**Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80	NA	54.3	25.7-54.3	ppb	2020	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

* Average 50.0 ppb

** Average 47.3 ppb



Even Small Leaks Can
Add Up To Many
Gallons Of Water

Wasted

FREQUENTLY ASKED WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS

Q: Is Fluoride added to my drinking water?

A: No, the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, our provider, nor the Belle Vernon Municipal Authority chemically adds Fluoride to the drinking water.

Q: Is there anything I can do to eliminate the Chlorine taste in my water?

A: Yes, place a picture of water in the refrigerator for cool fresh water anytime. Chlorine will dissipate from the water over time. Reverse Osmosis and Activated Carbon filters are also effective at removing Chlorine tastes and smells.

Q: Why does the water have a “Chlorine” smell in the winter time?

A: Our provider adds Chlorine to the drinking water to prevent water-borne disease outbreaks such as Cholera, Typhoid, Giardiasis, etc. The Chlorine must remain in the water for its entire journey to your spigot.

In the summertime our provider combines Ammonia with Chlorine to help carry the disinfectant across the entire distribution system and reduce taste and odors caused by warmer weather. In the winter, our provider eliminates the Ammonia and adds only Chlorine to the water. This Chlorine eliminates any free Ammonia in the system which, left unchecked, can cause bacterial growth. This “free” Chlorine residual creates the off odors that you smell.