

**WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY**

**2008**

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

**PWS #3390081**

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## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### Water System Information

In order to comply with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, the Whitehall Township Authority will be issuing an annual Consumer Confidence Report on the monitoring we performed on our drinking water. The purpose of the report is to advance consumer understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources.

Questions or comments about this Consumer Confidence Report and or any issues involving your drinking water can be directed to Mr. Douglas K. Bowen, Manager at 610-770-1155, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

You should be advised that the Board of the Whitehall Township Authority meet in regular session on the third Monday of each month in the Authority building, 1901 Schadt Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052-3728. All 2009 public meetings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM. The public is invited to attend any public meeting and to be heard on any issue deemed pertinent.

**Maximum contaminant levels (MCL) are set at very stringent limits. In order to understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to substances found 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. United States Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?**

The majority of our drinking water is produced from several Authority owned and operated groundwater sources. A small number of customers, who live near the Whitehall and Allentown border, still receive water from the City of Allentown.

If a City of Allentown Consumer Confidence Report is included with this document, you are one of those customers who receive your water that we purchase from the City of Allentown.

Since your drinking water can come from several various locations, it is important for you to understand that the source of your drinking water may vary during the year.

Typical 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.

A source water assessment was completed in November, 2004 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The assessment found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to activities such as auto repair shops, gas service stations, underground petroleum storage tanks, household cleaning supplies, highway spills, highway salt applications, lawn care supplies, on-lot sewage

disposal, petroleum pipelines, sewer pipelines and wells (abandoned or active). Summary reports of the assessment are available by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Wilkes-Barre regional office at 570-826-2511.

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 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 storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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.

### **Definitions**

Every Consumer Confidence Report must include certain definitions of key terms that consumers will need to understand the contaminant data. As such, the following definitions are provided for your use and information:

- **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 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/L)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- **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.
- **Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow

### **Detected Contaminants in Authority Groundwater**

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that are reportable during the 2008 calendar year. Note: 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, though representative, are more than one year old.

### LEAD / COPPER RESULTS for 2007

<u>CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT</u>	<u>ACTION LEVEL (AL)</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>90<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE VALUE</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u># OF SITES ABOVE ALL OF TOTAL SITES</u>	<u>VIOLATION OF TT Y/N</u>	<u>SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION</u>
LEAD	15	0	4.6	ppb	0	N	corrosion of household plumbing
COPPER	1300	1300	311	ppb	0	N	corrosion of household plumbing

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 Whitehall Township 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 thirty seconds to two 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>.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT

<u>CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT</u>	<u>MCL IN CCR UNITS</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED</u>	<u>RANGE OF DETECTIONS</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>VIOLATION Y/N</u>	<u>SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION</u>
RADON			1,229	471-1,229	pG/l		

## DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

<u>CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT</u>	<u>MCL IN CCR UNITS</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED</u>	<u>RANGE OF DETECTIONS</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>VIOLATION Y/N</u>	<u>SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION</u>
NITRATES	10	10	4.3	<.1 -4.3	PPM	N	run off from fertilizer use
BARIUM	2000	2000	23.9	.0 -023.9	PPB	N	discharge or drilling waste, erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA	15	NA	7.45	1.85 -7.45	pCi/l	N	erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM	15	NA	1.41	.45 -1.41	pCi/l	N	erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM 226 & 228	5	NA	1.29	.0 -1.29	pCi/l	N	erosion of natural deposits
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHAN	80	N/A	0.8	<.5 -.8	ppb	N	by-product of drinking water chlorination
CHLORAMINES	4	4	3.7	3.3-3.7	MRDL	N	additives to control microbes
CHROMIUM	100	100	5.4	.0-5.4	ppb	N	discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS	60	NA	9.1	<1 – 9.1	ppb	N	by-product of drinking water chlorination

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through

the soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call USEPA's Radon Hotline at 800-SOS-RADON.

### **Educational Information**

The Whitehall Township Authority is committed to the safe and reliable provision of drinking water and fire protection for its customers.

As part of that commitment, the Authority maintains an active membership in many organizations whose focus is primarily associated with drinking water.

Organizational membership includes the American Water Works Association; Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association and the Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers, Inc. If you would like more information and or education about matters related to drinking water, you may want to visit the USEPA drinking water web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/) or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection web site, which is located at [www.dep.state.pa.us/](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/). In addition, we encourage you to visit the Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers, Inc. web site at [www.lvwater.org](http://www.lvwater.org). and the Whitehall Township Authority web site at [www.whitehalltpauthority.org](http://www.whitehalltpauthority.org).

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 with someone who understands it.