Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

www.somersetborough.com/ccr

2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 4560042 NAME: Borough of Somerset

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Brad Lorence, Superintendent and Chief Operator at (814) 445-2111. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at the Somerset Borough Municipal Building. Council meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 PM. Municipal Authority meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 PM. Visit the website: www.somersetborough.com or call (814) 443-2661 for more information.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name - Type-Location)

Well #1 and Well #2 Well water Shafer Run Road, Somerset, PA 15501

Well #7, #8, #9 Well water 3518 Coxes Creek Road, Somerset, PA 15501

The Borough of Somerset purchases water from the Somerset County General Authority Water System, please review their "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" for additional information (Attached).

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to Transportation Corridors, Junk Yard / Auto Repair Shop and Dairy Farms. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Source Water Assessment & Protection web* page at (http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm). On review of the document, note that the Source Water Assessment includes surface water from the Laurel Hill Creek. The Borough of Somerset no longer has a permit to use the Laurel Hill Creek's surface water as a source. Also, Somerset Borough's water production is limited to only six well water sources not eight. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Ebensburg Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 472-1921.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).

Monitoring Your Water:

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. 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 date has been noted on the sampling results table.

DEFINITIONS:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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 (MCLG) – 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 contaminants.

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

Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TTHM	80	N/A	44.35	29.9-72.1	ppb	2025	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	60	N/A	51.9	33.7-69.6	ppb	2025	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.18	1.03-1.32	ppm	2025	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (EP 101)	2	2	.1643	N/A	ppm	6/5/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (EP 103)	2	2	.2878	N/A	ppm	6/5/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (EP 101)	200	200	44	N/A	ppb	6/5/2024	N	Discharge from steel/metal factories
Cyanide (EP 103)	200	200	37	N/A	ppb	6/5/2024	N	Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride* (EP 101)	2	2	.8	N/A	ppm	6/5/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Fluoride* (EP 103)	2	2	.8	N/A	ppm	6/5/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (EP 101)	10	10	.41	.31-.51	ppm	2024	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (EP 103)	10	10	.09	0-.18	ppm	2024	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is four ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date of Lowest Value	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
EP 101	.40	1.20	1.20-2.03	ppm	7/7/2025	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
EP 103	.40	1.23	1.23-1.69	ppm	11/27/2025	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Range of tap sampling results	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
1030 Lead (2025)	15	0	1.4	0-6.3	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
1022 Copper (2025)	1.3	1.3	.246	.0153-.3054	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)					
Contaminants	**TT**	**MCLG**	**Assessments/ Corrective Actions**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments **or** correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminants	**MCL**	**MC LG**	**Positive Sample(s)**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
E. coli	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive **and** either is *E. coli*-positive **or** system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample **or** system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli.*	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
Contaminants	**TT**	**MC LG**	**Assessments/ Corrective Actions**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
E. coli	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments **or** correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Raw Source Water Microbial					
Contaminants	**MCLG**	**Total # of Positive Samples**	**Dates**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
E. coli	0	0	N/A	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

None - "No MCL's or Treatment Techniques were exceeded" in any location of the CCR.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

In 2025 QTR 3 & 4 The Borough of Somerset had Halocetic Acids(HAA5) Exceedance over the MCL(Maximum Containment level). The RAA (Running Annual Average) was still below threshold for 2025. All MCL Violations have been reported to DEP immediately and notifications have been handled accordingly.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

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 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 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 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.

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).

INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

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. Borough of Somerset is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and is removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Borough of Somerset at (814) 443-2661. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

OTHER INFORMATION:

EP 101 moved from the Laurel Hill Filtration Plant to the Shaffer Run Tank Site on June 19th, 2025.

The Borough of Somerset prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed online at www.somersetborough.com or by contacting our office at (814) 443-2661.

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Somerset County General Authority - PWSID #4560009

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

The Somerset County General Authority takes great pleasure in presenting our 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides information about your water quality and what it means. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. If you have any questions or concerns about this report or your water utility, please contact Coby Handwerk at (814)-629-9460. If you would like to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM, in the Commissioner's Board Room.

Our water source is surface water from the Quemahoning Reservoir, which is located in Somerset County and spans portions of Conemaugh, Jenner, and Quemahoning Townships. The reservoir is owned by the Cambria-Somerset Authority (CSA). We purchase raw water from the CSA and process it through our water treatment plant where it is treated to remove contaminants, filtered, and disinfected with chlorine before entering the distribution system. A Source Water Assessment of the Quemahoning Dam source was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Cambria Office Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 472-1900

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 (800-426-4791).

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

In this table, you may find terms and abbreviations that you are not familiar with. The following definitions have been provided to help you better understand this data:

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.**
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) **- a measure of radioactivity**
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) **- 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 (MCLG) **- 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.**
Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) **- The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.**
Treatment Technique (TT) **- A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.**

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual 2025						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	**Violation Yes/No**	**Lowest Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**Lowest Sample Date**	**Minimum Disinfectant Residual**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Chlorine (ppm)	No	1.06	1.06 - 2.11	12/13/25	0.20	Water additive used to control microbes

Chemical Contaminants						
Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	**Violation Yes/No**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Chlorine (ppm) Distribution System 2025	No	1.44 January 2025	0.89 – 1.44	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppm) 9/24/25	No	0.0257	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppm) 9/24/25	No	0.0018	N/A	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm) 9/24/25	No	1.27	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) 9/9/25	No	43.6	N/A	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb) 9/9/25	No	54.6	N/A	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Gross Alpha (pCi/L) (9/9/20)	No	6.04	N/A	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
PFAS (PERFLUOROOCTANOIC) 2025	No	0	N/A	14	14	Run off from factories, landfills, and firefighting foam.
PFAS (PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONIC ACID) 2025	No	0	N/A	18	18	Run off from factories, landfills, and firefighting foam.

Table 3: Turbidity

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Violation Yes/No**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.190	1/9/25	No	Soil Runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples $\leq$ 0.3 NTU		100%	2025	No	

Table 4: Total Organic Carbon (TOC) 2025					
Contaminant	**Range of % Removal Required**	**Range of % Removal Achieved**	**Number of Quarters out of Compliance**	**Violation Yes/No**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	35%	11% - 30%	None*	No	Naturally present in the environment

***Alternative Compliance Criteria (ACC) was used to determine compliance.**

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 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 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 storm water 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 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.

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.

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) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water.