

2023 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 Water Authority meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 5:00 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 #3 Well water 278 Beck 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, 2023**. 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.

EP – Entry point from treatment plant to the distribution system. EP 101 = Laurel Hill Filtration Plant
EP 103 = Coxes Creek Treatment Plant

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.

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

Heading	DEP Maximum Contaminate Level	Heading	DEP Maximum Contaminate Level
pH	8.50	Mang Manganese	.05 mg/l
Alk Alkalinity	NA	Iron	.30 mg/l
T Hard Total Hardness	NA	Turb Turbidity	3
C Hard Calcium Hardness	NA	TDS Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/l
Chloride	250.0 mg/l	Cond Conductivity	NA
F Chlorine Free Chlorine	3.00 mg/l	Fl2 Fluoride	2.00
T Chlorine Total Chlorine	4.00 mg/l	Po4 Phosphate	NA

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:

Contaminant		MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	EP 101	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.48	1.47 - 2.48	ppm	2023	N	Disinfectant water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine	EP 103	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.38	1.23 - 2.38	ppm	2023	N	Disinfectant water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride	EP 101	2*	4	1.09	.56 - 1.09	ppm	2023	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Fluoride	EP 103	2*	4	1.05	.23 - 1.05	ppm	2023	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate	EP 101	10	10	.60	NA	ppm	7/18/2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrate	EP 103	10	10	0.18	NA	ppm	7/18/2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrite	EP 101	1	1	<0.05	NA	ppm	7/18/2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrate	EP 103	1	1	<0.05	NA	ppm	7/18/2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Arsenic	EP 101	10	0	0	NA	ppm	9/14/2022	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
Arsenic	EP 103	10	0	0	NA	ppm	1/12/2021	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Contaminant		MCL in ppm	MCLG	Highest *LRAA	Range of Quarterly *LRAA	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
HAA5	DEP ID 701	0.060	NA	.051	.033 - .051	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5	DEP ID 702	0.060	NA	.061	.036 - .061	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	DEP ID 701	0.080	NA	.053	.015 - .053	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	DEP ID 702	0.080	NA	.057	.019 - .057	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

*Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) EPA/DEP Stage 2 Disinfectant Byproducts Rule requires this quarterly method to indicate MCL Violations.

Distribution System Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine Distribution as Total Chlorine	MCL .20	.50	.50 – 2.08	ppm	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Microbial

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: • More than 1 positive monthly sample	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile Value	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper	1.3	MG/L	0.148	0	2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	0.015	MG/L	0.0016	0	2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

VIOLATIONS CONCERNING HEALTH EFFECTS:

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

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

None

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

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 Borough of Somerset 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>.

2023 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 2023 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 Terry Stutzman or Matthew Estep 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 2023 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2023. 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 2023						
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	1.19	1.19 -1.81	12/3/23	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 2023	No	1.39 November 2023	1.04 – 1.39	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppm) 9/11/23	No	0.035	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppm) 9/11/23	No	0.0014	N/A	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm) 9/11/23	No	1.26	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) 9/11/23	No	46.90	N/A	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb) 9/11/23	No	57.10	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

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	0.120	1/12/23	No	Soil Runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples \leq 0.3 NTU		100%	2023	No	

Table 4: Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					
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%	26% - 41%	None*	No	Naturally present in the environment

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

Violation: In November of 2023 we submitted our LogG report late to the PA Department of Environmental Protection past the required due date. Public Notification is enclosed at the end of this report.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

FAILURE TO SUBMIT REPORT

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER. TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.

Reporting Requirements Not Met for LogG

We violated a drinking water reporting requirement.

- We failed to submit a laboratory monitoring report after properly conducting monitoring in a timely manner.
- We failed to submit a completed assessment form after properly conducting the assessment in a timely manner.
- Our seasonal noncommunity water system failed to submit certification of completion of a state-approved start-up procedure. Our written records show start-up was performed and sampling showed no contamination.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What happened? What was done?

LogG monitoring was conducted for the month of November 2023, however the report was submitted after deadline date, Report was submitted 12-18-2023

For more information, please contact Terry Stutzman, Chief Operator, at the Somerset County Water System
at (814) 629-9460

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 Somerset County Water System, 458 Mastillo Road, Hollsopple, Pa. 15935

PWS ID#: 4560009