

# 2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 2590033

Blossburg Municipal Authority

*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 very 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. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **George D. Lloyd or Dan Grinnell at 241 Main Street, Blossburg Pa. 16912 or call 570-638-2452.** 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 **on the first Tuesday of each month in the Borough building at 7:00 p.m.**

## **Source(s) of Water**

Our water sources are **surface water from the stream Bellman Run and our well located at Hillside R & G Club.** The water from Bellman Run is treated at the Bellman Run filtration plant. Water from our well is treated at the Sportsman Club treatment plant.

The Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP) completed a Source Water Assessment of the Bellman Run Watershed in 2003 and the Sportsman Club Well Watershed in 2007. The assessment has found that the Bellman Run Reservoir is potentially most susceptible to road deicing materials and accidental spills along route 15 and some unpaved roads. Overall, the Bellman Run Watershed has moderate risk of significant contamination. The assessment for the Sportsman Club well watershed is potentially most susceptible to coal mines, agriculture practices and quarries. Overall, the Sportsman Club well watershed had high risk of significant contamination. 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/watermtg/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm> Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and Pa. DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP North Central Williamsport Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 327-3693.

**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, 2019**. 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 and Abbreviations**

**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.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required in the distribution system.

**NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units** (a measure of water clarity)

**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 ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**Detected Sample Results for Blossburg Municipal Authority**

<b>Chemical Contaminant Inorganic</b>	<b>MCL in CCR units</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Detected Level Reported</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Chromium	100	100	1.71	1.71	ppb	01/04/18	N	Discharge from steel pipes and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	2	2	0.0188 0.0814	0.0188 0.0814	ppm ppm	01/08/19 01/04/18	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	10	10	0.747	0.0 – 0.747	ppm	01/08/19	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2	2	0.149	0.149	ppm	01/04/18	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

## Detected Sample Results for Blossburg Municipal Authority

Chemical Contaminant Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals	MCL In CCR units	MCLG	Detected Level Reported	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine Maximum Distribution Residuals	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	1.20	0.81 - 1.20	ppm	Weekly	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Minimum Entry Point Residuals Bellman WTP	Min RDL 0.2		0.9	0.9 – 1.80	ppm	Daily	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Minimum Entry Point Residuals Sportsman Well	Min RDL 0.5		0.60	0.60 – 1.50	ppm	Daily	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Minimum Distribution Residuals	Min RDL 0.2		0.64	0.64 - 1.39	ppm	Weekly	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Chemical Contaminant Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals	MCL In CCR units	MCLG	Detected Level Reported	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60	n/a	15	4.2 – 22.4	ppb	2/05/19 5/7/19 8/6/19	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	80	n/a	32	6.6 – 58.2	ppb	2/05/19 5/7/19 8/6/19	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Chemical Contaminant Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals	MCL In CCR units	MCLG	Detected Level Reported	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Organic Carbons <b>See Note:</b>	TT	n/a	0.79	0.50 – 1.10	ppm	Monthly then Quarterly	N	Naturally present in the environment

**Note:** Alternative compliance criteria are used to determine compliance with the TT for the Total Organic Carbons. We were in compliance for each quarter of the year.

## Detected Sample Results for Blossburg Municipal Authority

Contaminant Lead & Copper	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper Sampled 6/18/19	1.3	1.3	0.145	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead Sampled 6/18/19	15	0	1	ppb	1 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity  See Note:	TT=1 NTU for a Single measurement	n/a	0.060 NTU	10/07/2019	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	Daily	N	

**Note:** Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Microbial Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	None	None	No	Naturally Present in the environment
E. Coli	MCL	0	None	None	No	Human and animal Fecal waste

## **Health Effects**

**NO MCL'S OR TREATMENT TECHNIQUES WERE EXCEEDED**

## **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 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)

## **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. Blossburg Municipal 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the 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>.

## **Other Information**

As you can see by the table our system had no violations. We also had no detection of Volatile Organic Compounds or Synthetic Organic Compounds.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

We at Blossburg Municipal Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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. Please call our office at 570-638-2452 if you have questions.

## **DROP BY DROP: USE WATER WISELY**

Water is an important natural resource. It is used every day at home and at work in so many ways that many take it for granted. This fact sheet is about water conservation and what can be done to reduce water use.

In 1900, each of the six million people living in Pennsylvania used about five gallons of water per day. Since then, the population has doubled to over 12 million people and water consumption has increased to an average of 62 gallons per day.

Part of this 900 percent increase in water use is due to the many modern water-using conveniences, such as automatic dishwashers, clothes washers, garbage disposals, and home water treatment systems. A significant change in water use occurred when the bathroom was moved indoors.

Water resources are not unlimited. They are affected every day by precipitation, population growth, economic development, and pollution. Because water is a resource that must be shared, competition for its use is an ever-increasing management problem. In the past, supply problems were solved by constructing storage facilities and developing new resources such as wells and reservoirs. However, these measures can be both economically and environmentally costly.

A more cost-effective way to protect water resources is through sound management and conservation.

### ***Average Daily Water Use***

Be aware of personal water use! Awareness is the first step in conservation.

#### ***– Metered Water***

If the water use is metered, review the water bill. Divide water usage by the number of days in the billing period and then by the number of people in the household. If the bill measures water in cubic feet, convert to gallons by multiplying by 7.48.

#### ***– Unmetered Water***

If water use is not metered, determine water use for each fixture. Flow rates for showers and faucets can be measured by using a container and a watch to measure the amount of water discharged through the fitting in a minute. Toilet use per flush can be approximated by measuring the volume of water inside the toilet tank (width x length x height) and dividing by 231. (There are 231 cubic inches in a gallon of water.) After the water use has been determined for each fixture, record the number of uses and the length of time each fixture is used to determine the average daily water use. Remember to estimate the amount of water used by appliances such as clothes washers and dishwashers as well as home water treatment systems.

After determining average daily water use, compare it to the statewide residential/water use average of 62 gallons per person per day (GPCD). Is the water use average more or less than 62 GPCD? If the water use averages more than 62 GPCD, consider the suggestions contained in this fact sheet.

### ***Water Savings***

Water-saving plumbing fixtures and appliances are cost effective, providing permanent long-term economic advantages. Low-flow toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators save valuable water and energy used to heat water without requiring a change in personal use habits.

### ***Repair All Leaks***

A dripping faucet is more than annoying; it's expensive. Even small leaks can waste significant amounts of water. Hot water leaks are not only a waste of water, but also of the energy needed to heat the water.

Leaks inside a toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day. Toilet leaks can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to water in the toilet tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the tank is leaking. Repair leaking faucets and toilets.



## **Use Water-Saving Plumbing Fixtures/Appliances**

### *– Bathroom*

- *The Federal Energy Act of January 1994 limited all new manufactured toilets to 1.6 gallons per flush. If the toilet was manufactured before 1994, place a plastic gallon container in the toilet tank to save water with each flush.*
- *Install low-flow showerheads that use no more than 2.5 gallons per minute at maximum flow.*
- *Install low-flow faucets that use no more than 2.2 gallons per minute at maximum flow.*

### *– Kitchen/Laundry*

- *Replace the more common, less efficient, top loading clothes washer with a high-efficiency, front-loading washer that uses about 30 percent less water and 40 to 50 percent less energy.*
- *Operate the clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded.*
- *Install low-flow aerators on all faucets.*

## **Change Water Use Habits**

### *– Water Saving Tips Inside the Home*

- *Turn the faucet off while brushing teeth. Use a glass of water for rinsing teeth.*
- *When shaving, use a sink filled with rinse water. Do not let the faucet flow.*
- *Take short showers instead of baths and consider bathing small children together.*
- *Do not use the toilet as a trash can.*
- *If the shower has a single hand control or shut off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing.*
- *Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water instead of letting a faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.*
- *Turn the faucet off while cleaning vegetables. Rinse them in the sink with the drain closed or in a pan.*
- *When washing dishes by hand, do not leave the faucet flowing for rinsing. Instead, use a dish rack and spray device to rinse them. If there are two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water.*
- *Fill the sink with water to prerinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.*

### *– Water Saving Tips Outside the Home*

- *Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps, and sidewalks.*
- *Wash the car with water from a bucket. If a hose is used, control the flow with an automatic shut off nozzle.*
- *Water the lawn only when needed. If grass does not spring back after walking on it, it probably needs water.*
- *Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day. Do not water on windy days.*
- *Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only. Do not water the street or sidewalk.*
- *Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems to reduce the amount of water used by 20 to 50 percent.*
- *Mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil and inhibit weeds.*
- *In landscaping, use native plants that require less care and water than ornamental varieties.*
- *Cover the swimming pool to prevent evaporation.*
- *Adjust the lawn mower to a higher setting to provide natural ground shade and to promote water retention by the soil.*

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water  
Permits Division  
P.O. Box 8467  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467  
Telephone: 717-787-9633

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