



2011 Borough of Phoenixville Water Quality Report, PWSID # 1150077

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

About Your Drinking Water

Phoenixville Water Department (public water supply ID-1150077) is pleased to provide you with its 2011 Consumer Confidence Report, which contains important information about your drinking water. The report summarizes the quality of water provided in 2011 - including details about water source, what the water at your tap contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Although the report lists only those regulated substances that were detected in your water, we test for more than what is reported.

This report is only a summary of our testing during 2011. If you have any questions about the information in this report, please call E. Jean Krack, Borough Manager, at 610-933-8801.

Sources of Supply

Water for the Borough of Phoenixville comes from the Schuylkill River, a surface water supply. The Borough takes water from the Schuylkill through two intakes at the main plant. A Source Water Assessment for the Schuylkill River was completed in 2002 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The source overall has a moderate risk of significant contamination. The Assessment found that this source is potentially susceptible to spills, failing septic systems, wastewater lift station and collector overflows, runoff from roads and parking lots, and waterfowl. The Schuylkill River is susceptible to the effects of acid mine drainage in the upper watershed. Information on source water assessments is available on the DEP Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us (DEP keyword "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies, and DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the DEP Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit (484-250-5900).

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 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 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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).

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The following table lists contaminants that were detected in your water system. The table provides the average of the sources used to supply the Borough as well as minimum and maximum observed levels of regulated contaminants.

Contaminants	Average Detection	Range of Detections	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Total Coliform Bacteria, positive samples each month	0	0 - 1	1	0	2011	N	Naturally present in the environment	
Of the 192 samples collected during 2011, one was positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. All samples were negative for E.coli.								
Chloramines, ppm	1.3	1.0 - 1.5	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2011	N	Water additive used to control microbes	
Turbidity, % meeting plant performance level	100%	100 - 100%	TT	NA	2011	N	Soil runoff	
Barium, ppm	0.03	NA	2	2	2011	N	Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium, ppb	2	NA	100	100	2011	N		
Nickel, ppb	2	NA	NA	NA	2011	N		
Fluoride, ppm	0.7	0.34 - 0.98	2	2	2011	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	
Nitrate, ppm	2.2	NA	10	10	2011	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Total organic carbon, removal ratio	1.18	1.0 - 1.7	≥ 1.00, TT	NA	2011	N	Naturally present in the environment	
Haloacetic acids, ppb	30	8 - 53	60	NA	2011	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	
Total Trihalomethanes, ppb	47	10 - 107	80	NA	2011	N		
Beta/phaeton emitters, pCi/L*	2.3	ND - 7.0	50	0	2011	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	
* EPA considers a level of concern for beta/phaeton emitters to be 50 pCi/L; the MCL is 4 millirems/year.								
Lead and Copper	90th Percentile	Total Number of Samples	Samples Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper, ppm	0.48	30	0	1.3	1.3	2010	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead, ppb	5	30	0	15	0	2010	N	

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 Phoenixville 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>.

Notes:

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

Fluoride: Fluoride may help prevent tooth decay if administered properly to children, but can be harmful in excess. Customers in the Borough receive water from a fluoridated supply. This information may be helpful to you, your pediatrician or your dentist in determining whether fluoride supplements or treatment are appropriate.

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. Some levels are based on a running annual average.

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.

NA: Not applicable. ND: Not detected.

Nitrate: 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 advice from your health care provider.

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit (cloudiness of water).

ppb: A unit of concentration equal to one part per billion.

ppm: A unit of concentration equal to one part per million.

PWSID: Public water supply identification number.

Turbidity: Monitored as a measure of treatment efficiency for removal of particles. Plant Performance Level: 0.3 NTU.

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