

JUNE 2016

# HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

HTWSA WATER SYSTEM ♠ PWSID #1090117 & PWSID #1090162

*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.)*

## HTWSA's Commitment to you: Safe & Reliable Drinking Water

### Lead and Copper Rule

#### HTWSA's Commitment to You

Over the past several months, I am sure that you have heard about elevated lead levels found in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. With that being said we wanted to shed some light on what HTWSA does with regard to testing for both lead and copper in your drinking water.

Under the terms of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) all public water systems must conduct monitoring for lead. This is required every six months, annually, or triennially, depending of the levels of lead.

If 10 percent of the homes that are tested have lead levels greater than the action level of 15 parts-per-billion, then the public water system must increase monitoring and take additional efforts to control corrosion, and also inform the public.

Currently HTWSA is required to take 20 samples triennially. Our most recent sampling was done in 2013 with test results indicating no presence of lead in any of the samples. Hence the ND or non-detect listed on the enclosed tables. In accordance with the Lead and Copper rule, we will be sampling again in 2016.

The action level for copper is 1.3

parts-per-million. HTWSA's 2013 90<sup>th</sup> percentile result of 0.25 parts-per-million; well below the regulatory threshold.

While the media often reports that lead has been found in drinking water provided by the local water company, the truth is that lead (in most cases) is not found in the source of the drinking water, but is instead caused by lead leaching out of household fixtures, such as pipes and faucets. The age of household plumbing and quality of water source must also be taken into consideration, as older homes are more likely to have lead elements in their plumbing.

The good news for us is that our groundwater quality is extremely consistent and does not lend itself to the corrosive nature required to leach compounds out of plumbing fixtures. Hence we consistently have results well below the action levels, as indicated above.

#### So where do we go from here??

As done for the past 30 plus years, HTWSA will continue to test, monitor and meet all State and Federal guidelines to ensure your drinking water is safe to drink now and into the future. Our goal is to ensure the quality of your water supply and your safety. ♠

### How Good is Hilltown's Water?

The Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority (HTWSA) has been committed to providing residents with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water since 1986. We



test our water using the most current equipment and methods to ensure safe drinking water. This annual report will provide you with information regarding the source of your water; test results; and other things you should know about the water you use.

We are proud to report that the water we provide to you exceeds the water quality standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

You may also visit EPA's drinking water website for more information about drinking water standards and quality. [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## Drinking Water Meets and Exceeds EPA and PADEP



We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014. 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 table results. ♦

## Important Health Information

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 ways to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). ♦

### DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS—HTWSA CENTRAL DISTRIBUTION

#### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	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 (2013)	1.3	1.3	0.25	ppm	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead <sup>1</sup> (2013)	15	0	ND	ppb	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Arsenic	10	0	10	0-10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass & electronic production wastes
Barium	2	2	0.073	0.071-0.073	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100	100	2.8	2.8-2.8	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2	2	0.23	0.22-0.23	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel	0.1	0.1	0.0061	0-0.0061	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries.
Chlorine (In System)	MRDL =4	MRD-LG=4	1.89	0.47-1.89	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

<sup>1</sup> Monitoring for lead contamination conducted in 2013 did not detect the presence of lead in the 20 samples collected from the Central Distribution system.

HTWSA serves customers on two distribution systems. The majority of our customers are served by the Central Distribution System (PSWID 1090117). This system is supplied water from HTWSA wells and an interconnection with North Penn Water Authority (NPWA).

## DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS—HTWSA CENTRAL DISTRIBUTION

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60	n/a	1.8	0-1.8	ppb	<b>N</b>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Tryhalomethanes (TTHMs)	80	n/a	60.8	0-60.8	ppb	<b>N</b>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
RADIONUCLIDES							
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Gross Alpha (2014)	15	0	2.02	0-2.02	pCi/L	<b>N</b>	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation.
Uranium (2012)	30	0	0.58	0.39-0.58	pCi/L	<b>N</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 and Radium 228 Combined (2012)	5	0	1.06	0.12-1.06	pCi/L	<b>N</b>	Erosion of natural deposits

*Regulated contaminants not listed in the table were not detected in our samples.*

## ENTRY POINT DISINFECTION RESIDUAL—WELLS 1 AND 2

Contaminant	Minimum Residual	Lowest Level	Range	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.40	0.45	0.45-2.45	ppm	Daily 2015	<b>N</b>	Water additive used to control microbes.

### Key To Tables (HTWSA & NPWA)

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's 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.

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

**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.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L), One part per billion corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000,000.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L), One part per million corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000.

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

NTU - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person

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

N/A—Not Applicable



## Where Does Your Water Come From?

In 2015, two municipal wells and an interconnection with North Penn Water System fulfill the needs of HTWSA's customers. Well No. 2, located on South Perkasio Road, supplied groundwater, from the Pleasant Creek Watershed. Well No.1, located off Thistle Lane, supplying groundwater from the East Branch Perkiomen Creek Watershed. Water drawn for these wells undergoes treatment for iron, manganese and arsenic, and chlorine is added as a disinfectant to kill any bacteria. Well No. 5, located on Route 152, was taken offline in 2010 when arsenic was detected. A copy of the Source Water Assessment is available for viewing at the HTWSA Office.

HTWSA has two interconnects with North Penn Water Authority (NPWA). The southern connection is the sole source for the Ridge and Reserve at Hilltown. The northern interconnect is a supplementary water source for the central distribution system.

HTWSA customers living in the **Hilltown Ridge** and **Reserves at Hilltown** subdivisions are served by the Southern Distribution System (PWSID #1090162) This system is supplied solely through an interconnect with NPWA. HTWSA monitors contaminants which are associated with distribution of drinking water for this System. Contaminants which are associated with source water are monitored by NPWA.

### Source Water Information — North Penn Water Authority (NPWA)

In 2015, approximately 85% of the water that NPWA delivered to its customers was treated surface water from the Forest Park Water (FPW) Treatment Plant located in Chalfont. The remaining 15% of water came from 12 groundwater supply wells that NPWA operates. These wells are located throughout the service territory, in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The water from these wells is chlorinated before it is delivered to NPWA customers' homes.

The source of water that is treated at FPW is the North Branch Neshaminy Creek. The North Branch Neshaminy Creek originates as a small stream near Route 413 in Central Bucks County. The creek flows into Lake Galena, which is the reservoir for Forest Park Water. Water released from the Lake Galena flows down the Neshaminy Creek to where it is drawn into the FPW, in Chalfont, PA. At times throughout the year, water is pumped from the Delaware River at Point Pleasant and diverted into the North Branch Neshaminy Creek near Gardenville, PA. This diversion controls the level of Lake Galena for recreational purposes, ensures a sufficient drinking water supply, and maintains base flow in the stream. ♦

### DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS—HTWSA SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTION

#### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	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 (2013)	1.3	1.3	0.022	ppm	0 of 5	<b>N</b>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead <sup>1</sup> (2013)	15	0	ND	ppb	0 of 20	<b>N</b>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (In System)	MRDL =4	MRD-LG=4	0.82	0.54–0.82	ppm	<b>N</b>	Water additive used to control microbes.

#### DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60	n/a	1.8	0-1.8	ppb	<b>N</b>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80	n/a	48.5	2.1-48.5	ppb	<b>N</b>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup> Monitoring for lead contamination conducted in 2013 did not detect (ND) the presence of lead in the 5 samples collected from the Southern Distribution system.

The following pages contain important information about water quality monitoring of the NPWA distribution system.

## SUMMARY OF NPWA WATER QUALITY DATA (PWSID #1460034)

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Avg. Level Detected	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Sources of Contamination
<b>REGULATED AT THE WELLS OR FPW</b>						
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Antimony (ppb)	N	0	0-0.7	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb) <sup>1</sup>	N	1.0	0-5.0	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste
Barium (ppm)	N	0.21	0-0.38	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	N	1.0	0-3.0	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0	0-0.12	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	N	1.26	0-4.5	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>RADIONUCLIDES (2011-2014)</b>						
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) <sup>3</sup>	N	3.34	0-6.92	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	N	0	0-1.12	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	N	4.26	0-10.4	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (DBPs)</b>						
Chlorine (leaving FPW) (ppm)	N	1.32	0.98-1.73	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additives used to control microbes
Chlorine (leaving the wells) (ppm)	N	1.00	0-2.0	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additives used to control microbes
Bromate (Tested at FPW) (ppb)	N	1.9	1.4-2.8	0	10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>PERFORMANCE MONITORING</b>						
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>4</sup>	N	0.02	0.02-0.04	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
<b>CONTAMINANTS TESTED THROUGHOUT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>						
<b>DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (DBPs)</b>						
Chlorine (ppm)	N	0.70	0.57-0.83	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additives used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N	7.35	2.86-13.2	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N	27.0	6.80-61.3	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Regulated Contaminants which were tested for, but not detected include:** Microbial Contaminants (*E. Coli*, Total Coliform Bacteria, *Cryptosporidium*); Inorganic Contaminants (Beryllium, Cadmium, Cyanide, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrite, Selenium, Thallium); various Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) and Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs).

## SUMMARY OF NPWA WATER QUALITY DATA

### REGULATED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP (2013)

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	90thPer- centile Result	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# Sites above AL of total	Sources of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	N	0.59	1.3	1.3	0 out of 33	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	N	3.9	15	0	0 out of 33	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

- While your drinking water meets EPA's standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
- Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 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.
- The results for Alpha Emitters in this table represents data from wells that were in service in 2014. The one well that had higher results reported in 2011 was shut down permanently and has not been used since.
- Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the NPWA filtration system. As a member of the partnership for Safe Drinking Water, NPWA's goal is to achieve <0.1 NTU. In 2014, NPWA achieved this goal for 100% of all samples.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NPWA'S WATER QUALITY TESTING

### Cryptosporidium and Giardia

Giardia and Cryptosporidium are microbial pathogens found in surface water throughout the U.S. Monitoring of the source water (before treatment) at FPW indicated the presence of Giardia in 2 out of 12 samples collected. Cryptosporidium was not detected in any of the 12 samples collected. FPW treatment processes are designed to remove or inactivate Giardia and Cryptosporidium cysts with a high level of certainty. Current available test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immune-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. NPWA encourages immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Giardia and Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not yet established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2015, unregulated contaminant assessment monitoring was conducted at FPW, NPWA Wells and distribution system. The results of this testing may be viewed in the NPWA Annual Water Quality Report, available online.

### Source Water Assessment Information

A Source Water Assessment of NPWA groundwater sources was completed in 2005 by the PA DEP. Most of the land that surrounds NPWA wells is highly developed commercial and residential areas, with a small amount of forested or agricultural/undeveloped land. The Assessment found that NPWA groundwater sources are potentially most susceptible to transportation corridors, residential and agricultural activities, railroad transportation, auto repair shops, machine/metal working businesses, National Priorities List (NPL) sites, industrial wastewater disposal, golf courses, a recycling center and a print shop.

In 2003, a Source Water Assessment of the North Branch Neshaminy Creek Intake, which supplies water to the Forest Park Water Filtration Plant, was completed and prepared by Spotts, Steven & McCoy, Inc. for the PA DEP. The Assessment found that the North Branch Neshaminy Creek Intake is potentially most susceptible to point sources of pollution from auto repair shops, wastewater treatment plants, boating, quarries, on-lot septic systems and gas stations. Non-point sources of potential contamination include major transportation corridors and runoff from areas of urban development, livestock farming, and industrial parks. The most serious potential sources are related to accidental releases of a variety of materials along transportation corridors and high nutrients from Lake Galena.

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

Hilltown Township Water and Sewer  
Authority  
P.O. Box 365  
Sellersville, PA 18960

Regular Hilltown Water and Sewer Authority Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Authority Office.

316 Highland Park Road  
Hilltown Township

Customer Service: (215) 453-6065

Emergency After-Hours (215) 453-6065

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791

Contact Authority Manager James C. Groff if you have any questions concerning this report. Hilltown Water and Sewer Authority is a member of the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association and the American Water Works Association.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

[WWW.HTWSA.ORG](http://WWW.HTWSA.ORG)