

**YEAR 2012 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH WATER DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IDENTIFICATION NO. 6250061**

**Purpose of this report:**

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) adopted regulations requiring public water suppliers to provide an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to its consumers.

Pursuant to these regulations, we are presenting our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides information on last year's (2012) water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, while doing so in the most cost effective manner. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and provide sufficient water to meet the needs of the community.

**Spanish (Español) Statement:**

Spanish Statement – Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que to entienda bien.

Translation – This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it.

**Where does my water come from?**

Our current water sources consist of Lake Erie, a spring, and three impoundment reservoirs (Smith Reservoir, Grahamville Reservoir and Eaton Reservoir.) In November 2004, the North East Borough Water Authority completed construction of facilities to utilize Lake Erie as a water supply source. At present, about 92% of our water comes from Lake Erie and the other 8% from the reservoirs and spring.

**Is my water safe?**

In 2012, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards.

While our water is safe for the vast majority of our customers, 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 from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**What future improvements are planned?**

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we have completed several upgrades to the water system. In August 2005, we finished construction of the expansion of the water filtration plant. By doing so we have increased our capacity of the water filtration plant, allowing us to increase the amount of water that we are able to treat. This will accommodate the water needs of the community for the future. We also have completed construction of two pump stations. These pump stations have given us the ability to pump water from Lake Erie. Lake Erie water has proven to be a tremendous asset to our water system. We are now in compliance with all of the EPA and State water health standards, in a more cost effective manner. Another area of improvement is our continuing effort to upgrade the distribution system. We have been replacing water mains in the distribution system for many years now. We will continue to do this in years to come by targeting 1 to 2 water main replacement projects per year. The replacement of older cast iron water mains with larger ductile iron mains not only improves water quality, but also improves fire protection for the community.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Educational Language about Contaminants:**

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 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 agricultural, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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 for drinking, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **Source Water Assessment:**

The PA DEP has completed a draft report regarding the susceptibility of our water sources to potential contamination. Additional information on this source water assessment report may be obtained by contacting the PA DEP Northwest Regional Office at 814-332-6899.

## **How can I get involved or obtain more information?**

The public is welcome to attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The Borough Council meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The Borough Water Authority meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (when necessary).

If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact:

Randy Culver  
North East Borough Water Filtration Plant  
Filter Plant Road  
North East, PA 16428  
Phone: 814-725-4198 / Fax: 814-725-6918

## **WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE**

The North East Borough Water Department continuously monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The Federal (EPA) or the State (DEP) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not change frequently.

### **Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**Not Detected (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

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

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

### Your Water

Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	1.10	0.77	1.88	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer aluminum factories. <i>EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm; however, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.</i>
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.23	0	0.50	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	2	2	0.028	0.028	0.028	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity			<b>Level Found</b>				
TT=1 NTU For a single <u>measurement</u>		0	.10 NTU			No	Soil runoff.
TT=at least 95% of monthly Samples $\leq$ 0.3 NTU		0	100%			No	Soil runoff.
<b>Lead and Copper Rule</b>							
The Borough was approved for reduced monitoring. Samples are taken every three years. Results are from 2010. Next scheduled sampling period begins in 2013.							
			Number of Sites above Action Level		90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value		
Lead (ppb)v	AL=15	0	0 of 20		2.9	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0 of 20		0.24	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
<b>Disinfection By-Products and Disinfectant Residuals</b>							
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	80	0	67*	67	67	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA (Haloacetic acids) (ppb)	60	0	40*	40	40	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS (cont.)

	Range of % removal required	Range of % removal achieved	Number of Quarters out of compliance	Violation	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	25%	23-33%	0	No	Naturally occurring in the Environment.

*Alternative Compliance Criteria Used in 2012 <2 in All Samples*

Free Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL	MRDLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
Plant	4.0	4.0	1.43	1.05	2.05	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.
Distribution	4.0	4.0	1.06	.79	1.32	No	

## NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

### Your Water

Non-Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
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#### **Inorganic Contaminants**

Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	0	0	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics; production wastes.
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#### **Microbiological Contaminants**

Total Coliform (# of monthly positive samples)	1	0	0	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
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#### **Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Volatile Organic Chemicals	**		0	0	0	No	Industrial and chemical waste. Gas storage tanks and Landfills.
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#### **Inorganic Contaminants**

Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0	0	0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
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### **Units Description:**

N/A	Not Applicable
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water
# of monthly positive samples	Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
ND	Not Detected
TT	Treatment Technique
*	Approved for reduced monitoring. Only one sample per year required
**	MCL for Volatile Organic Chemicals varies for each chemical
***	MCL for Synthetic Organic Contaminants varies for each chemical

## **HEALTH EFFECTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Turbidity:**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

### **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 North East Borough Water Department 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 at (800-426-4791) or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Information about 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 for advice from your health care provider.

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA**

## **Monitoring Requirements Not Met for North East Borough Water Department**

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency; as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our water meets health standards.*

### **What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

### **What happened? What was done?**

Due to a change in our required monitoring schedule, we should have tested for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) in the fourth quarter of 2012. We did test during the third quarter as required and sample results show that we are meeting the regulatory requirements, but sample results were elevated enough that it changed our reduced monitoring status to routine monitoring, which is quarterly. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the fourth quarter. We did sample during the first quarter of 2013 on March 12, 2013 and the results of these tests show that we were well below the regulatory requirements. This sampling shows that we are currently meeting drinking water standards.

For more information, please contact Randy Culver, 31 West Main Street, at 814-725-4198.

*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 by the North East Borough Water Department.