

YEAR 2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP WATER DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IDENTIFICATION NO. 6250086

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 (2021) water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

North East Township purchases all of its public water from North East Borough. The purchased water is conveyed to all users within a Township owned, operated, and maintained distribution system.

Spanish (Espanol) 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?

Township water sources (by way of the Borough) 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 93% of our water comes from Lake Erie and the other 7% from the reservoirs and spring.

Is my water safe?

In 2021, 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 as to the safety of the drinking water for their particular condition. 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 their continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, the North East Borough Water Authority (NEBWA) has previously completed several upgrades to the water system which included the expansion of the water filtration plant and the construction of two pump stations that have provided the

ability to pump water from Lake Erie. Since its inclusion, Lake Erie water has proven to be a tremendous asset to our water system. As a result, NEBWA is in compliance with all of the EPA and State water health standards, in a more cost-effective manner.

In addition to water sources, another area of improvement is the continuing effort to upgrade the distribution system. NEBWA has been replacing water mains in the distribution system for many years now and continues to target 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.

The Borough and Township have also been developing a GIS Mapping System of the underground lines to provide for more accuracy in the location of the lines, valves and manholes. The Borough is considering replacing the 4-million-gallon Service Reservoir at the Filter Plant with two 2-million-gallon storage tanks. In addition, while the Borough has a backup generator that will run the entry filter plant in case of a power outage, they are planning to add a new generator to each of the pump stations (Freeport & RT 20 pump stations) that will help to insure uninterrupted service.

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) can 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 animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water could include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff and septic systems; and
- 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 consumption, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water that is provided by public water systems and we treat our water according to these EPA's regulations. Similarly, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations

establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Source Water Assessment:

On May 9, 2019, North East Borough Water Department was given a certificate of approval of their new Source Water Protection Plan. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recognizes the outstanding efforts of the North East Borough Water Department in developing an approved source water protection program. Implementation of this program exemplifies a strong commitment to source water protection and providing safe drinking water to its customer's.

How can I get involved or obtain more information?

The public is welcome to attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The Township meets on the first Monday of the Month at 7:30 p.m. and the third Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. The Township Water and Sewer Authority meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (when necessary).

If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact the **North East Township Office, 10300 West Main Road, P.O. Box 249, North East, PA 16428, (814) 725-8606; FAX (814) 725-2419; email: dmiller@northeasttp.org**

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The North East Borough Water Department and the Township monitor the public water supply for contaminants in your drinking water according to the applicable 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 Township is providing water testing information from both the Borough and the Township so that those interested may be informed about their drinking water. 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. In some cases, the Federal (EPA) or the State (PA 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
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.68	0.48	0.97	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>							
Barium	2	2	0.021	0.020	0.027	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.

Lead and Copper Rule

The Borough and Township were approved for reduced monitoring. Samples are now taken every three years. Results are from 2019 with the next scheduled sampling period in 2022. The Borough and Township sampled for copper and lead at twenty (20) locations and ten (10) locations, respectively, during 2019, and a synopsis those results is reported below.

			Number of Sites above Action Level	90 th Percentile Value		
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	0 of 20	< 2.0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
>>>>NET Samples	AL=15	0	1 of 10	5.88	No	
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0 of 20	0.26	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
>>>>NET Samples	AL=1.3	1.3	0 of 10	0.40	No	
Turbidity				Level Found		
TT=1 NTU For a single measurement		0		0.057 NTU	No	Soil runoff.
TT=at least 95% of monthly Samples < 0.3 NTU		0		100%	No	Soil runoff.

Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform	MCL	MCLG	Low	High	Violation	
(# of monthly positive samples)	1	0	0	1	No	Naturally present in the environment.

All required follow up samples were negative.

Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
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Disinfection By-Products and Disinfectant Residuals

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	80	0	41.1 June	20.9 – 53.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
>>>>NET Samples	80	0	54.0	30.6 – 96.1	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA (Haloacetic acids) (ppb)	60	0	37.1 September	15.8 – 37.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
>>>>NET Samples	60	0	26.6	20.5 – 40.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Level Detected is the Highest Running Average during the 2021 year as required

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Range of % removal required	Range of % removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation	
25%	23-35%	0	No	Naturally Occurring in the environment.

Alternative Compliance Criteria Used in 2021 <2 in All Samples.

Free Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL	MRDLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
Plant	4.0	4.0	1.69	1.25	1.96	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.
Distribution	4.0	4.0	1.37	0.37	1.95	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.
>>>>NET Samples	4.0	4.0	0.68	0.18	1.36	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.

NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Your Water

Non-Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	0	0	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics; production wastes.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform (# of monthly positive samples)	1	0	0	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
>>>>NET Samples	1	0	0	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Volatile Organic Chemicals	**		0	0	0	No	Industrial and chemical waste. Gas storage tanks and Landfills.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0	0	0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.193	0	0.46	No	
Asbestos							
Asbestos (in MFL)	7	7	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.2	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains (if present); erosion of natural deposits.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides							
	***	1	0	0	0	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

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
MFL	Million fibers per liter
# 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
>>>>	North East Township Samples

HEALTH EFFECTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Turbidity:

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. The Borough monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their 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 and Township Water Departments are 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 MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

The Township and Borough Water Departments are required to monitor the drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Each month, Township and Borough Water Departments are required to collect a total of five Total Coliform Bacteria samples, and in May 2021, both the Township and the Borough only collected four (4) samples, and failed to collect the requisite number¹, and lead both to a Tier 3 violation for failure to monitor. This did not result in an emergency, nor was there a need to either boil water or consume only bottled water. In response to the violation, they have changed their monitoring schedule to ensure that they are collecting the proper number of samples each month.

¹ Both the Borough and Township had scheduled to collect their fifth sample on May 31, 2021. Due to this day being a federal holiday (Memorial Day), the samples were collected the following day, June 1, 2021, which put both the Township and Borough out of compliance for the month of May.