



2022 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 2400054

NAME: Borough of Freeland 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 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. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Freeland Municipal Authority at (570) 636-1733. 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 every third Wednesday of each month in the conference room at 711 Birkbeck St. Freeland, PA 18224.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water sources are:

Drawn from seven (7) wells. Six (6) of these wells draw water from the Buck Mountain/Mauch Chunk Aquifer and include the following: Wells No. 4, No. 6, No. 9, No. 10, No. 11, No. 12. The seventh well, Well No. 17, draws water from the Green Mountain/Mauch Chunk Aquifer.

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to landfills, deep coal, and surface coal mining, etc. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 826-2511.

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, 2022. 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:

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.

Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

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

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate	10	10	2.26	1.26-2.26	ppm	8/9/22	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits. Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	80	NA	19.2	0.6-6.9	ppb	9/14/22	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5	60	NA	28.2	1.6-28.2	ppb	9/14/22	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.40	0.42	0.42-1.62	ppm	7/27/22	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.071	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)					
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	Y	Naturally present in the environment.

Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Positive Sample(s)	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Raw Source Water Microbial					
Contaminants	MCLG	Total # of Positive Samples	Dates	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	0	0	N/A	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

There were two (2) positive total coliform bacteria samples within the same monitoring period during June 2022 which triggered a level 1 assessment be completed and additional sampling. The additional samples' results were negative. The level 1 assessment was completed and provided to PADEP on time. *Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.* During the assessment it was found that one of our storage tanks was leaking. The tank has been repaired and the leak fixed. The Authority has changed labs for its testing needs and there has not been a positive sample since the change took place in August 2022. Your water is safe to drink and there is nothing further required at this time.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

There are three (3) violations to report that occurred simultaneously in September of 2022. Violation ID # 59752 was generated due to not having enough Total Coliform distribution samples collected or reported. Violation ID # 59753 was generated due to not having enough Distribution Chlorine samples collected or reported. And Violation ID # 59754 was generated due to not having enough chlorine distribution samples collected or reported at sample point ID 804. The total number of samples that should have been collected is 5 but only 3 were done. Sampling continued in October 2022 and no issues were found with your drinking water. Your water is safe to drink and there is nothing further required at this time.

There was a failure to monitor Asbestos at 5 Entry Point locations (EP 101-105) due to an expired waiver that was not renewed before the end of 2022. Violation ID #'s have been generated for each of the locations. Violation ID #'s are 04678, 04679, 04680, 04681, and 04682. The waiver relieved the system from the need to test for asbestos. Because the waiver has expired, we are working with the lab to get Asbestos tested as soon as possible and reported to DEP to regain compliance. Asbestos is now required to be sampled once every 9 years at each entry point location since the previous waiver is no longer valid. Asbestos samples will be collected at each of the 5 (five) entry point locations on June, 28 2023 and submitted to the lab for analysis.

Regarding all violations listed above, the Authority is taking this matter seriously and is monitoring sampling frequency more closely to avoid this from reoccurring.

Official Public Notifications for the violations mentioned above can be found at the end of this report.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 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 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. Freeland 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 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>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
FAILURE TO MONITOR**

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN 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 Freeland Municipal Authority

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

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 drinking water meets health standards. During 2022 we failed to monitor for the following contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, the required sampling frequency, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which corrective action samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Free Chlorine	Monthly	3	Sept. 7 2022	10.5.2022
Total Coliform Presense	Monthly	3	Sept. 7 2022	10.5.2022
Asbestos	Every 9 years	0	2020-2022	6.29.2023

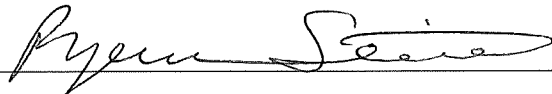
What happened? What was done? When will it be resolved?

Weekly sampling during the 1st week of September 2022 was missed and two (2) samples for each free chlorine and total coliform did not get collected. All samples since have been collected and reported on time. There was a failure to monitor for asbestos due to an expired waiver that was not renewed before the end of 2022. The waiver relieved the system from the need to test for asbestos and we are going to collect samples on June 29, 2023.

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.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact Ryan Smith at 570-636-1733.

Certified by:

Signature: 

Date: 6/23/2023

Print Name and Title: Ryan Smith - Technical Manager

As a representative of the Public Water system indicated above, I certify that public notification addressing the above violation was distributed to all customers in accordance with the delivery requirements outlined in Chapter 25 PA Code 109 Subchapter D of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP's) regulations. The following methods of distribution were used: Posted to FMA Website, Mail, newspaper, and voice reach notifications that PN available online. Reported within Annual Consumer Confidence Report.