COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

2024 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 or 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 source(s) is/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 source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) are potentially most susceptible to landfills, deep coal and surface mining coal, etc. Overall, our source(s) have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: Source Water Assessment Folder. 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, 2024. 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)

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

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

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

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

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	2.93	1.26-2.93	ppm	03/13/24	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits. Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks.
PFOA	14	8	5.74	0-5.74	ppt	08/21/24	N	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination sources include industrial sites, firefighting foams, landfills, and wastewater treatment plants, as well as through the use of PFOA in various products like non-stick cookware, food packaging, and cleaning products.
PFOS	18	14	10.7	0-10.7	ppt	10/16/24	N	PFOS, a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS), can enter the environment through various sources, including industrial sites, landfills, and places where firefighting foam containing PFOS is used, such as airports and military bases.
TTHM	80	N/A	9.9	1.9-4.6	ppb	09/13/24	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Alpha/Excl. Radon & Uranium	15	0	4.47	N/A	ug/L	06/07/23	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is four 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	0.41	0.41-1.75	ppm	05/18/24	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Range of tap sampling results	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	0.0 - 3.0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.071	0.010 0.08	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	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminants	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Positive Sample(s)**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
E. coli	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive **and** either is *E. coli*-positive **or** system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample **or** system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli.*	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
Contaminants	**TT**	**MCLG**	**Assessments/ Corrective Actions**	**Violation Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
E. coli	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**
E. coli	0	0	N/A	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) testing and reporting started in Quarter 1 of 2024. FMA detected the contaminant at each Distribution Entry Point location throughout our system. All levels detected were below the MCL. The results are reported within the CCR in the detected contaminants results on page 3. FMA is working with our engineers to remove these contaminants from your drinking water supply with new treatment technologies. PFAS is potentially linked to a number of adverse health effects, including high cholesterol, developmental effects including low birth weight, liver toxicity, decresed immune response, thyroid disease, kidney disease, ulcerative colitis, and certain cancers, including testicular cancer and kidney cancer. The EPA is revising their PFAS rule and is expected in the fall of 2025 with a final rule to be established in the Spring of 2026. EPA acknowledged that utilities are viewed as "passive recievers" of PFAS and that the EPA should support a "polluter pays" policy that helps passive receivers avoid major costs to treating or mitigating PFAS at their facilities. FMA will continue to monitor for PFAS and if any MCL is exceeded, you will be advised within the required 30 day period. No MCL's or Treatment Techniques were exceeded in 2024 and your water is safe to drink.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

There are no violations to report for 2024.

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

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 and is removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Freeland Municipal Authority, Technical Manager; Ryan Smith @570-636-1733. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The Freeland Municipal Authority has been mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a Lead Service Line inventory. The initial survey has been completed. However, we need to continue to add information to fully complete the survey. To complete this task, members of the Authority are conduction in home visual inspections of the water service line. This only takes a few minutes; we appreciate your cooperation as we continue to do the inspections. If you are not home, we will leave a door tag asking you to call the office to make an appointment that is convenient for you.

****In addition to the Lead & Copper Service Line Inventory****

We continue to inspect homes for illegal connections such as: rain leaders, basement sump pumps & floor drains that go into our sanitary sewer system. If you have any of these, they must be removed from the sewer system. The floor drain needs to be capped.

Please call if you have any questions. You can find our Rules & regulation on our website at www.fmaws.org.

Freeland Municipal Authority prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed online at fmaws.org or by contacting our office at 570-636-1733.