

# 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Newport Borough Water Authority

PWSID# 7500022

***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)***

### **WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services delivered to your tap daily by the Newport Borough Water Authority. Our commitment to providing a safe and dependable water supply, while improving our delivery with new distribution lines and state of the art processing, continues as our primary goal to you the customer.

Should you have questions concerning this report or the water system in general, please contact the Authority at (717) 567-6373, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Regularly scheduled meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, at the Authority's office. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### **SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water supply comes from a combination of four groundwater well sources. Additionally, a new well was developed in Howe Township in early 2006. All water is disinfected by mandate from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Chlorination is used to insure bacteriological safety of all of our groundwater water supplies. Our Oliver Twp. treatment plant provides dual filtration, utilizing manganese greensand and granular activated carbon. Our Howe Twp. treatment plant utilizes double filtration by manganese greensand. Additionally, the Authority is currently completed in the construction of a river water filtration system to provide additional water capacity for the system. The system is anticipated to be online in 2012.

Three 0.25 million gallon storage tanks are utilized for pressure control, fire protection, and storage during off-peak usage. One tank in Howe Twp. receives water only from the Howe Twp. treatment plant and it sends its water to Howe Twp. customers as it flows into the Borough. The two tanks near the high school receive water from the Oliver Twp. treatment plant, the Sixth Street well, and the Howe Twp. treatment plant.

### **MONITORING YOUR WATER:**

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supply systems. We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements. During the past year (**2011**), we monitored and analyzed your water for numerous contaminants including: Chlorine, Nitrate, Haloacetic Acids, Trihalomethanes, Lead and Copper, and Total Coliform. We are happy to report that your drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

The enclosed "**Detected Sample Results**" table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2011. 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.

**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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

#### **DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:**

**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 that is 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.

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

**n/d** = not detected at the analytical minimum detection limit.

#### **HEALTH EFFECTS:**

**MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

Lead and copper were monitored during 2010, with results below the mandated Action Level. If present, elevated levels of lead and copper 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. We 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 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

#### **VIOLATIONS:**

- The Authority had 3 violations in 2011. They are identified in the enclosed attachment.

## **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 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 run-off 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 run-off 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 assure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribe 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 the 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).

## **OTHER INFORMATION:**

**Arsenic:** The current standard for Arsenic as established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Agency is 10 ppb. The standard was made effective during January of 2006. The previous MCL was 50 ppb. 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.

## DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

Chemical Contaminant	Sample Date	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Arsenic	2011	10 <sup>1</sup>	0 <sup>1</sup>	0.0045	0-0.0045	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2011	2	2	0.14	0.047-0.14	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	2009	10	0	0.38	0.0-0.38	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2011	2 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	0.14	0-0.14	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2011	10	10	1.7	n/d – 1.7	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	2011	60	N/A	9.7	n/d – 9.7	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2011	80	N/A	16.6	n/d – 16.6	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Combined Uranium	2009	20.1	0	0.00	N/A	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> These arsenic values are effective January 23, 2006. Until then, the MCL: is 50 ppb (0.05 mg/L) and there is no MCLG.

<sup>2</sup> EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Contaminant	Sample Date	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
Lead	7/13/10	15	0	10.6	ppb	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	7/13/10	1.3	1.3	0.844	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Disinfectants	Sample Date	MRDL	MRDLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Maximum Disinfectants Residual Limit (MRDL)	Jan to Dec	4	4	0.94	0.38 – 0.94	N	Chlorine residual is maintained in the system to maintain proper disinfection.

Microbiological Contaminants	Sample Date	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Jan to Dec	0	0	0	n/d	N	Naturally present in the environment.