

# 2016 SMETHPORT BOROUGH DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID # 6420023

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo o 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 report shows our water quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Borough Office at (814) 887-5815 or attend one of the meetings held on the first Monday of every month at the Borough Office, 201 West Main Street, Smethport, PA 16749.

## **SOURCES OF WATER**

Our groundwater is supplied by two wells on Ralph Street in Smethport, PA. We have a wellhead protection plan in place. Information regarding these types of plans is available by visiting the DEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (keyword: "DEP source water"). Results for all public water suppliers are posted on this website.

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).

## **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, 2016. 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 may be from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The dates are noted on the sampling results table for the results not in the current monitoring period.

As you can see by the following table, all treatment techniques and maximum contaminant levels were within regulated levels. We continually work with DEP and our laboratory to maintain safe, clean drinking water, and we appreciate your taking the time to review this report.

## **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 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* - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

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

### DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.36	0.67-1.36	(ppm)	2016	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Barium	2	2	0.0158	N/A	(ppm)	6/7/12	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	1.21	N/A	(ppm)	9/29/16	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	50	50	6.9	N/A	(ppb)	6/7/12	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

#### Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (2016)	0.40	0.73	0.73-1.57	ppm	11/6/16	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Contaminant	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	15	0	0	ppb	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.623	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

#### 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. Smethport Borough 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>.

**Violations:** In September of 2016 we were to sample for Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids between September 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We did not sample until after the compliance period resulting in a Monitoring Violation. The sample results showed no detects. Public Notification is enclosed at the end of this report. In September of 2016 we monitored for entry point chlorine and October of 2016 for Distribution Chlorine but failed to report the results to the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the required due dates. In October of 2016 we only sampled for Total Coliform once instead of the required 2 samples resulting in a Monitoring Violation. Public Notification is enclosed 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 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,
- Inorganics, 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 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 assure 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 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).

## 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 Smethport Borough

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 September 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 we did not sample for TTHM's and HAA5's 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 contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for TTHM's and HAA5's and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM's	1 sample at 1 location annually	0	September 15 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	12/15/16
HAA5's	1 sample at 1 location annually	0	September 15 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	11/23/16

#### What happened? What was done?

*We were required but failed to sample for TTHM's and HAA5's between September 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 at one location. The required samples were taken with no detects on 11/23/16 and 12/15/16.*

For more information, please contact The Smethport Borough at 814-887-5815.

*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 Smethport Borough.

PWS ID#: 6420023

Date distributed: March 2017

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*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 October 2016 we did not take enough samples for Total Coliform Bacteria 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 we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for *Total Coliform Bacteria* and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Total Coliform Bacteria	2 monthly	1	October 1 <sup>st</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> sample was taken on October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016

#### What happened? What was done?

The required numbers of samples (2) for Total Coliform Bacteria were taken in October of 2016 but the lab we used failed to analyze and report the results for 1 of the samples. The required numbers of samples were taken in the following month of November 2016.

For more information, please contact The Smethport Borough Office at 814-887-5815.

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