

2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 3130004

Lansford-Coaldale Joint Water 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 Tobias Krajcirik at 570-645-3040. 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 on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 3:45 pm at the Authority Office, One East Ridge Street, Lansford, PA 18232.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source consists of eight (8) ground water wells ranging in depth from 230 to 650 feet; they are located in the Lake Hauto section of Nesquehoning. The water is pumped to a wet well and then to our chemical treatment plant, where it is treated and then stored in one of our two storage tanks located at the top of the Hauto Mountain. Combined, our water storage tanks hold more than 2 million gallons of treated water.

The Authority continued to perform general maintenance of the water system in 2023. In December, 2023, the Authority received notice from the Commonwealth Financing Authority that they were awarded a \$331,654 grant for proposed water system improvements in West Abbott Street within Lansford Borough and a \$300,000 grant for upgrading and replacement of water meters. In 2022, the Authority approved participating in a scan of their water system to find areas of potential water leaks in conjunction with an areawide scan of multiple public water supply systems. The scan was completed in March, 2023 and the scan identified several areas where there were apparent leaks. The Authority Staff found and repaired two (2) significant leaks along with other minor leaks found.

A Source Water Assessment was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in December, 2003. The Assessment found that our source is potentially susceptible to commercial and industrial contamination. Overall, our source has a high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available for your information and can be viewed on the Source Water Assessment & Protection Web page at (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>). 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 PADEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 570-826-5472.

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, 2023. 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.

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 (pg/L)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCL	Units	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium (2021)	2	2	ppm	0.007845	0.00683-0.00886	7/15/21	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Monochloroacetic Acid	-	-	ppm	0	-	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Dichloroacetic Acid	-	-	ppm	0.00144	0.00106-0.00182	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Trichloroacetic Acid	-	-	ppm	0	-	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (Five)	0.060	0.060	ppm	0	-	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Chloroform (THM)	-	-	ppm	0.00282	0.00269-0.00295	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Bromoform (THM)	-	-	ppm	0	-	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Bromodichloro Methane (THM)	-	-	ppm	0.00206	0.00187-0.00225-	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Chlorodibromo Methane (THM)	-	-	ppm	0.00096	0.00078-0.00114	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.
Trihalomethanes	0.080	0.080	ppm	0.00584	0.00534-0.00634	8/3/23	N	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection.

Disinfectant Residual- Entry Point							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date of Lowest Level	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.4	0.01	0.02-0.97	ppm	1/17/23	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfectant Residual- Distribution							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date of Lowest Level	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	0.2	0.2-0.88	ppm	1/5/2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Disinfectant Residual- Distribution							
Contaminant	Maximum Disinfectant Residual	Highest Avg. Result	Range of Monthly Average Results	Units	Month of Highest Average Result	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	4.0	0.67	0.51-0.67	ppm	April	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper (2022)	1.3	1.3	0.634	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (2022)	0.015	0	0.00122	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.16	N/A	10/12/2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) detected zero (0) observations and the Authority had no violations in 2023.

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 byproducts 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 PADEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and PADEP 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. The Lansford-Coaldale Joint Water 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/lead>

Currently, the Authority is conducting extensive research to identify the material of the service lines within the public water system. In accordance with requirements set forth by EPA and PADEP, a service line inventory will be completed by October, 2024, after which the Authority will review the findings and take the necessary action within their public water system in order to minimize potential health risks to the general public. If you believe Lead to be present in your water, the Authority suggests taking the proper precautions outlined in the previous paragraph.

Information about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

In 2023, the PADEP established new drinking water standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) also known as forever chemicals. These PFAS substances have been found to accumulate within both Humans, and wildlife. Elevated PFAS levels can cause serious issues for pregnant women, and can also lead to an increased risk of thyroid disease, liver damage, increased cholesterol, and kidney cancer. The PADEP limit established for Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) is 18 ng/L and the limit established for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) is 14 ng/L. Monitoring for these chemicals will be required starting in January, 2024 and the Authority will comply with these new requirements. Data on these PFAS related contaminants can be expected to be released in next year's report. Additional information regarding PFAS can be found at the following EPA and DEP websites <http://www.epa.gov/pfas> and https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/drinking_water/PFAS/Pages/default.aspx