

Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. Westgate Water System

PWS ID: PA3480024



Annual Water Quality Report 2024

Message from Nate Spriggs, President

Dear Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. Customers,

I am pleased to present your Annual Water Quality Report for 2024. We strive to do our part in delivering vital, safe and reliable water services that empower our communities to flourish. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to regulatory standards.

We are proud to share this report which is based on water quality testing through December 2024. We continually strive to supply water that meets and/or exceeds all federal and state water quality regulations at your tap.

Providing a safe and reliable water supply is hard work, but it is satisfying. Our team of local water experts are proudly dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective service every day. This commitment includes acting with integrity, protecting the environment, and enhancing the local community.

Best regards,

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Visit us online at www.myutility.us/PA to view the Water Quality Reports.

Also visit our website for water conservation tips and other educational material.

Source of Drinking Water

Our water is purchased water from City of Bethlehem.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment of the Tunkhannock Creek Intake, which supplies surface water to the Bethlehem Filtration Plant, was completed in 2001 by Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. for the PA DEP. The Assessment has found that the Tunkhannock Intake is potentially most susceptible to road deicing materials, accidental spills along roads and leaks in underground storage tanks. Overall, the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed has high risk of significant contamination. In the event that monitoring of either the raw or finished water identifies or detects any of these contaminants then additional required health effects information will be included in this report noting these detections and attempting to identify the potential source(s) of the contamination.

Complete reports were distributed to the City of Bethlehem's Water Bureau, local municipalities, county planning agencies and PA DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available from the PA DEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Section at (570) 826-5472. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the PA DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm.

A Source Water Assessment of the Wild Creek Watershed was conducted. Copies of the final July, 2004 Report are available from the PA DEP Regional Office, Records Management Section. The final assessment found that the Wild Creek Watershed is potentially most susceptible to individual point source activities including above ground storage tanks and underground petroleum storage tanks and to non-point source activities including fuel oil storage tanks, household cleaning supplies, highway spills, highway salt applications, lawn care supplies, on-lot sewage disposal, petroleum pipelines, swimming pools, wells (abandoned or active) and bore holes (abandoned or active). Overall, because of all the potential threats identified near the water supply, the adoption of a source water protection plan was recommended. More information is available at <http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov>. Call customer service at 1-800-638-0262 if you have questions.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

EPA Wants You To Know

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:

- A. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B. **Inorganic contaminants**, 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.
- C. **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- D. **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.
- E. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

What measures are in place to ensure water is safe to drink?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Special notice from EPA for the elderly, infants, cancer patients and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems

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. USEPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Information Concerning Lead in Water

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. Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and 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 Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. by emailing lead.lines@nexuswg.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

We prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of material contained in each service line in our distribution system. To request access to this inventory or request to review the complete lead tap sampling data, email us at: lead.lines@nexuswg.com.

Drain Disposal Information

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause is sewer pipes blocked by grease, which gets into the sewer from household drains. Grease sticks to the insides of pipes. Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Help solve the grease problem by keeping this material out of the sewer system in the first place:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Scrape grease into a can or trash.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps / solids for disposal.

Prescription Medication and Hazardous Waste

Household products such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides, are considered to be household hazardous waste. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the wastewater treatment system and enter rivers and lakes (or leach into the ground and seep into groundwater in a septic system). Follow the directions for proper disposal procedures. **Do not flush hazardous waste or prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain.** They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Many communities offer a variety of options for conveniently and safely managing these items. For more information, visit the EPA website at: www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw.

The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed in 1974 due to congressional concerns about organic chemical contaminants in drinking water and the inefficient manner by which states supervised and monitored drinking water supplies. Congress' aim was to assure that all citizens served by public water systems would be provided high quality water. As a result, the EPA set enforceable standards for health-related drinking water contaminants. The Act also established programs to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

Understanding This Report In order to help you understand this report, we want you to understand a few terms and abbreviations that are contained in it.

Action level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Action level goal (ALG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's 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.
Not applicable (N/A)	Not applicable.
Not Detected (ND)	Analysis or test results indicate the constituent is not detectable at minimum reporting limit.
Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)	One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)	One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)	A measure of radioactivity in the water.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Help Protect our Resources

Help put a stop to the more than **1 trillion gallons of water lost annually** nationwide due to household leaks. These easy to fix leaks waste the average family the amount of water used to fill a backyard swimming pool each year. Plumbing leaks can run up your family's water bill an extra 10 percent or more, but chasing down these water and money wasting culprits is as easy as 1—2—3. Simply check, twist, and replace your way to fewer leaks and more water savings:

- ⇒ **Check** for silent leaks in the toilet with a few drops of food coloring in the tank, and check your sprinkler system for winter damage.
- ⇒ **Twist** faucet valves; tighten pipe connections; and secure your hose to the spigot. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. They can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—equivalent to the amount water used to shower 180 times!
- ⇒ **Replace** old plumbing fixtures and irrigation controllers that are wasting water with WaterSense labeled models that are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform well.

For more information visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Monitoring Your Water

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables

below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2024.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, maybe more than one year old.

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.

If You Have Questions Or Want To Get Involved

Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. does not hold regular public meetings. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact customer service at 1-800-638-0262.

Violations

In 2024, Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. performed all required monitoring for contaminants. In addition, we received **no violations** from PADEP and were in compliance with applicable testing and reporting requirements.



Water Quality Test Results - Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. Westgate

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	2022	0.048	1 of 10	0 - 1.5	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	2022	3	1 of 10	0 - 28	0.003	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Disinfectant / Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL/ MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	N	1.00	0.60 - 1.36	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	2024	N	20.12	0 -132.7	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]	2024	N	33.75	26.2 - 53.4	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

PFAS Testing

Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. continues efforts to conduct statewide drinking water testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These man-made compounds are used in the manufacturing of products resistant to water, grease or stains including firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, paints, adhesives and insecticides. PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air and is likely present in the blood of humans and animals all over the world. On April 10, 2024, the EPA approved new sampling requirements and drinking water limits for six PFAS including PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX Chemicals. We are completing PFAS sampling ahead of the 2027 initial monitoring deadline and will take appropriate action to meet new regulations as needed.

Our focus will remain, as always, on supplying our customers with quality, reliable water service.

For the latest PFAS results, visit our website at www.myutility.us/PA and click Water Quality Reports under Water Safety. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

2024 Water Quality Test Results - City of Bethlehem, PA

Inorganic Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	N	<0.50	N/A	2	2*	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron (ppm)	2024	N	0.02	0.02 - 0.03	N/A	0.3	Naturally occurring element
Sodium (ppm)	2024	N	6.7	6.3 - 8.3	N/A	1000	Naturally occurring element
Zinc (ppm)	2024	N	0.0478	0.034 - 0.059	N/A	5	Naturally occurring element
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	N	4.62	4.48 - 4.71	N/A	250	Naturally sources
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2024	N	45	33 - 54	N/A	500	Naturally sources, chemicals used in the water treatment process, and distribution piping.

The City of Bethlehem has been adding Fluoride to their drinking water since June 1971.

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set an MCL of 2 ppm to better protect human health.

Turbidity

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Lowest Monthly % of samples meeting TT	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	No	0.092	100%	N/A	TT = 1 NTU	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. The City of Bethlehem monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For turbidity this means any monthly sample greater than 1 NTU or 95% of the monthly samples are greater than or equal to 0.3 NTU.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring*

Contaminant (units)	Reported Level	Range	Major Sources
Manganese	2.80 ug/L	2.25 - 3.98 ug/L	Naturally occurring element
Bromochloroacetic Acid	1.48 ug/L	0.47 - 2.13 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	1.72 ug/L	1.21 - 3.24 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid	13.34 ug/L	1.35 - 27.2 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monochloroacetic Acid	2.84 ug/L	ND - 2.84 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid	19.22 ug/L	5.76 - 29.3 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

To access your utility account anytime, anywhere, please register for our customer portal & download
My Utility Account at <https://account.myutility.us>

