

**YEAR 2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
***NORTH EAST BOROUGH WATER DEPARTMENT***  
**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IDENTIFICATION NO. 6250061**

**Purpose of this report:**

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) adopted regulations requiring public water suppliers to provide an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to its consumers.

Pursuant to these regulations, we are presenting our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides information on last year's (2021) water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, while doing so in the most cost-effective manner. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and provide sufficient water to meet the needs of the community. I am happy to report that during the 2021 calendar year we have met all regulatory health standards requirements.

In 2021, we received our 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive AWOP (Area Wide Optimization Program) award presented by PA DEP. AWOP is a national filter plant optimization effort among multiple states, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) and water plants. AWOP recognizes outstanding efforts made towards optimizing filter plant turbidity performance. Currently there are 341 surface water systems in Pennsylvania of which 210 of the 341 are small systems serving a population of less than 10,000. In 2021, 181 systems participated in AWOP by submitting their turbidity data. Out of the 181 systems, 131 met the <0.10 NTU 95% Combined Filter Effluent (CFE) goal. Twenty-four systems out of the 131 systems qualified for the AWOP awards based on meeting optimization goals and being in compliance with DEP regulations and having the highest Filter Plant Performance Evaluation (FPPE) rating. 16 Plants that participated were large systems (>10K Population served). 8 Plants were small systems (<10K Population served). I am thankful be a part of the Partnership for safe water and that we were able to meet the water quality standards they have set for us.

**Spanish (Espanol) Statement:**

Spanish Statement – Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que to entienda bien.

Translation – This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it.

**Where does my water come from?**

Our current water sources consist of Lake Erie, a spring, and three impoundment reservoirs (Smith Reservoir, Grahamville Reservoir and Eaton Reservoir.) In November 2004, the North East Borough Water Authority completed construction of facilities to utilize Lake Erie as a water supply source. At present, about 93% of our water comes from Lake Erie and the other 7% from the reservoirs and spring.

**Is my water safe?**

In 2021, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. While our water is safe for the vast majority of our customers, 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 from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC)

guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **What future improvements are planned?**

The Borough Water Department will be continuing to plan for future projects. In the distribution system we will be replacing cast iron water mains with larger cement lined ductile iron mains, bringing both improved water quality and fire protection for the residents in these areas. The GIS Mapping System provides a more accurate way of locating lines, valves, and service connections, and is continually being updated with information. The Water Department is considering replacing the service reservoir cover possibly in 2023 and is also reviewing the possibility of increasing the Borough's water storage capability with water towers. We are planning to install generators at both Freeport and Route 20 pump stations to ensure uninterrupted service for all customers. At Smith Reservoir, we will be upgrading our aeration system for a more effective and efficient one. At Eaton Reservoir there has had increased public attendance therefore an additional parking lot has been started on Black Road and is planned to be completed this summer. We are presently in the process of upgrading our filter turbidity meters and installing additional particle counters that will enhance the monitoring of our filters.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Educational Language about Contaminants:**

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 storm water 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 agricultural, urban storm water 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 storm water 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 for drinking, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Source Water Protection Plan:

On May 9, 2019, North East Borough Water Department was given a certificate of approval of our new Source Water Protection Plan. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recognizes the outstanding efforts of the North East Borough Water Department in developing an approved source water protection program. Implementation of this program exemplifies a strong commitment to source water protection and providing safe drinking water to its customer's.

## How can I get involved or obtain more information?

The public is welcome to attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The Borough Council meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The Borough Water Authority meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. (when necessary).

If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact:

*Terry Daughenbaugh*  
*North East Borough Water Filtration Plant*  
*8150 Filter Plant Road*  
*North East, PA 16428*  
*Phone: 814-725-4198 / Fax: 814-725-6918*

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The North East Borough Water Department continuously monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The Federal (EPA) or the State (DEP) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not change frequently.

## Important Drinking Water Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Not Detected (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

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

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

### *Your Water*

Contaminants (units)	MCL	M C L G	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.68	0.48	.97	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer aluminum factories.
<i>EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm; however, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.</i>							
Barium	2	2	0.021	0.020	0.027	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.

### **Lead and Copper Rule:**

*The Borough was approved for reduced monitoring. Samples are taken every three years. Results are from 2019 with the next scheduled sampling period in 2022.*

			Number of Sites above Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value		
Lead (ppb)v	AL=15	0	0 of 20	<2	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0 of 20	0.26	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.

### **Microbiological Contaminants:**

Turbidity			Level Found		
TT=1 NTU For a single <u>measurement</u>	0		.057 NTU	No	Soil runoff.
TT=at least 95% of monthly Samples $\leq$ 0.3 NTU	0		100%	No	Soil runoff.

Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
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**Disinfection By-Products and Disinfectant Residuals:**

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	80	0	41.1 June	20.9 – 53.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (Haloacetic acids) (ppb)	60	0	37.1 September	15.8 – 37.4	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

*Level Detected is the highest Running Annual Average during the 2019 year as required.*

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Range of % removal required	Range of % removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
25%	23 – 35%	0	No	Naturally occurring in the environment.

*Alternative Compliance Criteria Used in 2020 <2 in All Samples.*

**Free Chlorine (ppm)**

	MRDL	MRDLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
Plant	4.0	4.0	1.69	1.25	1.96	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.
Distribution	4.0	4.0	1.37	.37	1.95	No	Disinfection added for control of microbes.

# NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

## *Your Water*

### **Microbiological Contaminants:**

	Level Found					Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
	MCL	MCLG	Low	High	Violation		
Total Coliform (# of monthly positives samples) 1	0	0	0	No			Naturally present in the environment.

Non-Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
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### **Inorganic Contaminants:**

Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	0	0	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics; production wastes.
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Non-Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Low	High	Violation	Typical Source(s) of Contamination
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### **Volatile Organic Contaminants:**

Volatile Organic Chemicals	**		0	0	0	No	Industrial and chemical waste. Gas storage tanks and Landfills.
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### **Inorganic Contaminants:**

Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0	0	0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
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Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.193	0	0.46	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
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### **Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides:**

	***	1	0	0	0	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
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### **Units Description:**

N/A	Not Applicable
Ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water
# Of monthly positive samples	Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
ND	Not Detected
TT	Treatment Technique
*	Approved for reduced monitoring. Only one sample per year required
**	MCL for Volatile Organic Chemicals varies for each chemical
***	MCL for Synthetic Organic Contaminants varies for each chemical

## **HEALTH EFFECTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Turbidity:**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

### **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 North East Borough Water Department 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 at (800-426-4791) or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Information about Nitrate:**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

As demonstrated in our Test Results Tables, North East Borough Water did not receive any violations in 2021 for a failed treatment technique.

The Borough Water Department is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Each month, the Borough Water Department is required to collect a total of five Total Coliform Bacteria samples and in May 2021, the Borough only collected four, thus resulting in a failure to obtain the proper amount of water samples. The sample date that we had scheduled to collect our fifth sample was Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2021. Due to this day being a federal holiday (Memorial Day), the sample was collected the following day, June 1<sup>st</sup> which put the Borough Water Department out of compliance for the month of May and lead us to a Tier 3 violation of failure to monitor. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know. There was not a need to boil water or to drink only bottled water. In response to this violation, we have changed our monitoring schedule to ensure that we are collecting the proper number of samples required for each month.

PWS ID# 6250061

The violation id #'s: FY21,21741,21742,21744

***For more information, please contact Terry Daughenbaugh at 814-725-4198.***

*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.*