

2017 Water Quality Report

proudly presented by the
Altoona Water Authority
PWSID 4070023

The Altoona Water Authority (AWA) takes great pleasure in presenting the 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report provides information about your water system, the quality of your water and other important health related information. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection require public water systems to provide annual Consumer Confidence Reports to their customers.

Our mission at the AWA is to insure that we have a clean, safe, reliable water supply. The information, tabulations and data provided in this report clearly support that we are meeting or exceeding our goals and will continue to work diligently to guarantee water quality excellence and consumer confidence on a daily basis. Please visit our website at www.altoonawater.com to get the "clear facts" on your water system and the benefits publicly owned water systems bring to you.

You are invited to attend our regularly scheduled meetings. Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 9:00am at the AWA's Administrative Office located at 900 Chestnut Avenue in Altoona. The AWA Board of Directors for 2018 are: **Chairman William Neugebauer, Vice Chairman Omar Strohm, Secretary Frank Ake, Treasurer Corey Gehret and Asst. Sec./Treasurer Marla Marcinko.**

We hope you take the time to read this report. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact us at (814) 949-2222, or at www.altoonawater.com. We also welcome the opportunity to give the guided tours through any of our water treatment facilities.

2018 EVENTS

- Earth Day is April 21, 2018. This year's campaign is **Environmental and Climate Literacy**. The AWA is co-sponsoring and participating in this year's Earth Day celebration to take place at the Logan Valley Mall on Saturday, April 21, from 10 am to 2 pm.
- Watershed Awareness and Water Conservation** will highlight Super Splash Day with the Altoona Curve on July 18, 2018 at 1200 noon at PNG Ball Park.
- The AWA is co-sponsoring the Blair County Conservation District Poster contest. The 2018 poster theme is "Watersheds. Our Water, Our Home..."
- Saturday April 28, 2018 from 9am to 1pm the AWA will join with community organizations and volunteers to conduct a watershed sweep, Illegal Dump cleanup throughout the Little Juniata watershed.

For more information on the 2018 events call **Amy Sipes** at 814 944 2320 or email Asipes@altoonawater.com



WATER QUALITY and HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoir, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Common contaminants that may be present in source water are listed in the 2017 Altoona Water Authority Water Quality Table.

All 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes monitoring to ensure that your drinking water does not exceed certain Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). These MCLs are set at very stringent levels for the protection of public health. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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. The guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from The EPA/CDC Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BEGINS WITH YOU

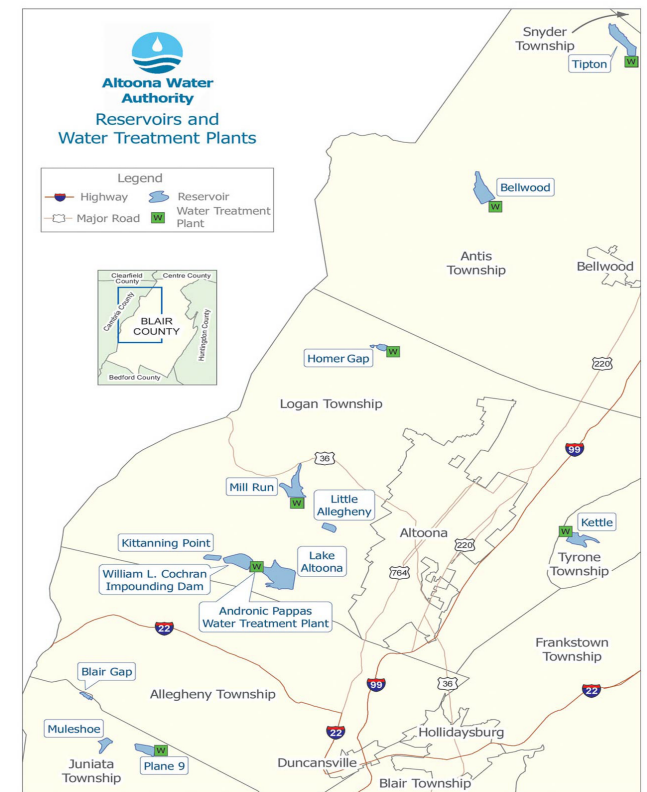
One of the best ways to prevent the flow of pollution into our local waterways is to prevent water from leaving your property as you perform daily activities.

By eliminating over-irrigation and by sweeping hard surfaces instead of cleaning them with water, you can help prevent urban runoff and the discharge of pollutants into our waterways!

AROUND YOUR HOME: Sweep up trash, dirt, and debris and place it in the garbage. Reduce bacteria in our waterways by picking up litter from around your yard and neighborhood and carry bags to pick up after your pet.

IN YOUR YARD: Yard waste has the potential to carry hazardous landscaping chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into your local watershed. Sweep up yard waste instead of hosing it away. Stop irrigation runoff by adjusting sprinklers and reducing watering times.

FROM YOUR CAR: Your car can be a source of automotive pollutants such as motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluids, and heavy metals. Check your vehicle regularly for fluid leaks. Use a funnel to prevent spills and keep rags and absorbents with reach. Use drip pans, drop cloths, or containers to collect fluids when making repairs or collecting leaks. Wash your car on your lawn or direct wash water to a landscaped surface to avoid releasing automotive pollution into our waterways.



The AWA water supply originates from twelve (12) surface water locations in west-central Blair County. These twelve reservoirs, which are shown on the above map, are located in the Juniata River watershed of the Susquehanna River Basin. Potential source water contamination threats for our particular area include: transportation corridors, the Horseshoe Curve railroad tracks, illegal dumping, abandoned mine discharges, faulty septic systems and natural gas wells and pipelines.

In June 2004, Gwin, Dobson and Foreman Consulting Engineers completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection Plan for the entire AWA watershed system. Copies of the complete report are available for review. Please call (814) 944-2320 to set up an appointment. Summary reports are available at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental website. (www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword "source water protection").

The AWA protects your watersheds. Before your drinking water reaches you, it is treated at one of our seven (7) water treatment plants. Inside the treatment plants, water is first treated with ozone to destroy bacteria and other organisms such as Giardia and Cryptosporidia, oxidize metals and to reduce other organic materials that naturally occur in water. The water is then coagulated and flocculated. Water then passes through dual media filters to remove sediment and particles. The filtered water is treated with a corrosion inhibitor to reduce its ability to react with water distribution pipes and customer plumbing systems. Finally, chlorine is applied to ensure the water is disinfected and safe before being distributed to our customers' homes and businesses.

The distribution system, storage tanks and interconnections are tested rigorously and regularly. This testing regiment ensures that water quality in our distribution system complies with Safe Drinking Water regulations long after leaving our treatment facilities.

2017 ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY WATER QUALITY TABLE							
Contaminant Name	Highest Level Allowed	Treatment Goal MCLG	Highest Level Detected by AWA	Range of Detection by AWA	Sources of Contaminants in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects	Violation by AWA
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Less than 5% positive of monthly samples	0	<3% in July 2017	0- 3%	Naturally present in the environment.	Indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.	NO
E. Coli Bacteria	0	0	None Detected	NONE DETECTED	Human and animal fecal waste.	Gastrointestinal disorder.	NO
TURBIDITY							
Turbidity	Treatment Technique= 0.3 NTU 95% of monthly samples <=0.3 NTU	n/a	0.25 NTU BELLWOOD (1-12-17) Lowest monthly % = 100%	0.01 - 0.25 NTU	Soil runoff.	Interferes with disinfection and may indicate the presence of disease causing organism.	NO
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Barium	2.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	0.050 ppm	0.033 - 0.050 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.	NO
Bromates	10 ppb	10 ppb	3.8 ppb	ND- 3.8 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.	NO
Copper (2016)	1.3 ppm= Action Level (AL)	1.3 ppm	90th percentile 0.036 ppm	ND - 0.0549 ppm NO LOCATIONS EXCEEDED AL	Corrosion of household plumbing.	Gastrointestinal disorder. Excess over MCL may cause liver or kidney damage.	NO
Lead (2016)	15 ppb= Action Level	N.D.	90th percentile N.D.	ND - 6.6 ppb NO LOCATIONS EXCEEDED AL	Corrosion of household plumbing.	Adults - Kidney and high blood pressure problems. Children - Delays in physical and mental development.	NO
Selenium (2017)	50 ppb		4.37ppb	ND - 4.37 ppb	Discharge from petroleum, metal refineries and mines. Erosion of natural deposits.	Selenium is an essential nutrient. Excess of the MCL could experience hair or fingernail losses or problems.	NO
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	n/a	Highest running annual average= 44.2 ppb	3.69 - 96.3 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	Excess over many years may increase risk of cancer and cause liver and kidney disorders.	NO
Halogenated Acetic Acids (HAA5s)	60 ppb	n/a	Highest running annual average= 23.6 ppb	ND - 45.6 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	Excess over many years may increase risk of cancer and cause liver and kidney disorders.	NO
Chlorine <i>AWA Distribution System</i>	4 ppm	4 ppm	Highest monthly average = 0.96 ppm (March 2017)		Water additives used to control microbes.	Excess could cause eye or nose irritation or stomach discomfort.	NO
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL (SOC)							
Chlorodane (2017)	2 ppb	N.D.	0.0301 ppb	0 - 0.0301 ppb	Residue of banned pesticide	Liver or nervous system problems.	NO
ENTRY POINT DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL							
Contaminant Name	Location ID	Minimum Disinfectant Level Allowed	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sources of Contamination	Violation by AWA	
Chlorine	Tipton 111	0.2 ppm	0.8 ppm	10/01/17	Water additive used to control microbes.	NO	
Chlorine	Bellwood 113	0.2 ppm	0.6 ppm	11/18/17		NO	
Chlorine	Plane Nine 115	0.2 ppm	0.8 ppm	07/11/17		NO	
Chlorine	HSC 116	0.2 ppm	0.6 ppm	10/20/17		NO	
Chlorine	Mill Run 119	0.2 ppm	0.5 ppm	10/13/17		NO	
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)							
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of months out of compliance	Sources of Contamination	Violation by AWA		
Total Organic Carbon	35%	17% - 54%	None - Met alternate compliance criteria	Naturally present in the environment	NO		
Unregulated Contaminants							
Contaminant Name	Sample Program	Highest Level Detected	Range detected	Potential Health Effects	Sources of Contamination	Violation by AWA	
Chromium	UCMR 3	0.3ppb	0.3ppb	None known	Unknown	NO	
Chlorate	UCMR 3	49ppb	0 to 49ppb	None known	Unknown	NO	
Hexavalent Chromium	UCMR 3	0.3ppb	0 to 0.3ppb	None known	Unknown	NO	
Strontium	UCMR 3	73ppb	14 to 73ppb	None known	Unknown	NO	
** The above referenced chemicals have no known health effects or MCL's.**							
These parameters were simply detected while complying with EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule #3. (UCMR3)							
WATER QUALITY TABLE NOTES:							
849 Distribution samples were collected in 2017. There were zero detections of E-Coli bacteria. All analysis complied with SDWA standards.							
Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) sampling was conducted at all AWA treatment Plants. All results were Non Detect (ND) for all locations.							
Inorganic Compound (IOC) sampling was conducted at all AWA treatment Plants. IOC's were ND except Barium and Selenium.							

RAW WATER QUALITY TABLE						
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant Name	Highest Level Detected by AWA	Range of Detection by AWA	Sources of Contaminants in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects	Violation by AWA	
Cryptosporidium	0.1	0 - 0.1	Naturally present in the environment.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.	NO	
E. Coli Bacteria	78.2	1 - 78.2	Human and animal fecal waste.	Gastrointestinal disorder.	NO	
TURBIDITY						
Turbidity	12.17 <i>HORSESHOE CURVE (10/06/17)</i>	0.37 - 12.17 NTU	Soil runoff.	Interferes with disinfection and may indicate the presence of disease causing organism.	NO	
RAW WATER QUALITY TABLE NOTES:						
The Altoona Water began testing for E-Coli & Cryptosporidium in late 2015 to comply with the						
LT2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. All results have been within normal, expected ranges.						
LT2 Testing for all sources was completed in February 2018.						

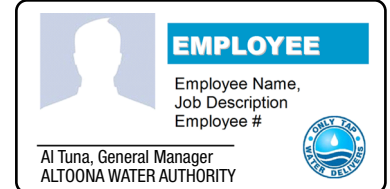


AWA customers can find us on Facebook! "Like" us to receive the latest updates and information. You will find a link provided on our website's homepage.

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 AWA 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>.

Remember that all AWA employees must carry visible proper identification. If you are uncertain about anyone claiming to be an AWA employee, please do not allow them to enter your home. Contact us at 949-2214 or 949-2215 to confirm the employee's validity.



The AWA routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. Throughout 2017, the AWA performed more than 3,000 tests and is pleased to announce that we had no MCL violations. The Water Quality Table presents the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017. The table shows the results for every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the minutest traces. The table contains the nature of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected and the usual sources of contamination. It is also important to note that the table does not include more than 80 other contaminants that are routinely tested for, but were all below the detectable levels. The following definitions of terms and abbreviations should further explain the table.

- The following definitions of terms and abbreviations should further explain the table:
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- 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 contamination.
- Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
- Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
- ppm** - Parts per million.
- ppb** - Parts per billion.
- pCi/L** - Pico curies per liter - a measure of radioactivity in water.
- cfu** - colony forming units - a measure of the heterotrophic plate count bacteria in water.
- ND** - non-detectable - the level of a contaminant is below the level of detection by laboratory analysis.
- NA** - not applicable.

2017 VIOLATIONS: NONE

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE SAFE DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS.

For more information on the 2017 Water Quality Report call or email: Tobias Nagle at 814 944 2320 Tnagle@altoonawater.com