

South Whitehall Township

BOARD OF AUTHORITY

June, 2009

Dear South Whitehall Township Water Customers,

On August 19, 1998, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency published a new regulation requiring water system operators to provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their water. The enclosed report contains detailed information describing the source of the water supply, the maximum levels of contaminants allowed in the drinking water, and the highest level and range of values of certain substances detected in the water. We feel this is an important step in opening the lines of communication between the South Whitehall Township Water Department and our water customers.

This report is mailed to you for your convenience. Landlords and business owners are encouraged to make copies of this water quality report available to their tenants, employees, and customers. and to post it in common areas for all to read. Please call the South Whitehall Township Water Department at 610-398-0407 and we will be happy to provide you with extra copies.

Should you have any other questions on this matter, please call us at the telephone number listed below.

Sincerely,



Gerald J. Gasda
Township Manager

4444 Walbert Avenue • Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104-1699

Administration (610) 398-0401 • Police (610) 398-0337 • Public Works (610) 398-0407 • FAX (610) 398-1068

2008 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR SOUTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. It outlines information concerning the SWTA Main System (PWSID #3390065), and SWTA Consecutive System (PWSID #3390087). Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The South Whitehall Township Authority has nine active wells located within South Whitehall Twp. Four draw from the Beekmantown Group of aquifers and five draw from the Allentown Formation aquifers. In addition, we purchase treated surface water from the City of Allentown, and have an emergency interconnection with Lehigh County Authority.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the South Whitehall Township Water Superintendent at (610) 398-0407 or attend a Board of Authority meeting scheduled every month on the third Monday @ 4pm. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

South Whitehall Township Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring and the City of Allentown's monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. The city's test results (Table 1 and Table 2) are included because their water quality will effect our system's due to our interconnections.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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. 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems 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 1-800-426-4791.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Nitrates

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the second quarter of 2008. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

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 April - June 2008 we did not monitor for nitrate 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 these contaminants 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.

Contaminants	Required sampling frequency	Numbers of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Nitrate	1 sample every quarter	0	April - June 2008	July 31, 2008

What happened? What was done?

We missed taking one sample at one site. Upon notification of our error, our lab took the sample and reported the results to DEP. For more information, please contact the Utility Superintendent at 610-398-0407.

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 the South Whitehall Township Main System. PWS ID# 3390065

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

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 advice from your health care provider.

Total Coliform: During the month of September 2008, water samples taken from our Consecutive water system tested positive for coliform bacteria. Coliform Bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. As soon as this was identified, water department personnel began a systematic series of area wide flushing of the water mains.

Secondary "check" samples were taken from these same locations. One sample again tested positive for coliform bacteria and negative for E. coli bacteria. Water department personnel again flushed that area. We then closely monitored this area for water quality indicators.

Since that time we have not had any positive test samples indicating a water quality problem. All routine samples have been in compliance. We are constantly monitoring the water system and flushing it as necessary to maintain water quality.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

SOUTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP WATER TEST RESULTS

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	N	0.205	0 of 42 sites above action level	3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leeching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	N	.76	.34 - .76	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	N	5	1 of 42 sites above action level	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	N	6.13	0.52 - 6.13	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leeching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	N	.66	0.09 - 0.96	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additives used to control microbes

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

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.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	N	24.5	Nd - 37.2	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acid) (ppb)	N	5.4	Nd - 25	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
1.1.1 - Trichloroethane (ppb)	N	1.3	Nd - 1.3	200	200	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation Y/N	Highest # of Positive samples in any one month	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	Y	2	0	2 or more positive samples in any one month	Naturally present in the environment

Nd - None detectable at testing limit

City of Allentown Water Test Results for 2008

Table 1 lists typical analysis of water plant discharge. Table 2 lists all regulated contaminants that were detected during 2008. All contaminants tested for, but with results below the detection limit, are not listed in any of the tables. Unless noted, the data in all of the tables were generated from sampling done in the year 2008. The state requires us to monitor for certain parameters on multi-year intervals, so some of the results are greater than one year old. The results greater than one year old are noted on the tables.

Table 1 - Typical Analyses of 2008 Water Plant Discharge

Routine Analysis	Units	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Alkalinity	mg/L as CaCO ₃	144	177	213
Total Hardness	grains per gallon	11.0	13.6	16.2
Sodium	ppm	26	28	31
pH	Standard Units	7.38	7.65	7.81
Sulfate	ppm	32	38	44

Table 2 - Detection Summary of Regulated Contaminants for 2008

Filtration Performance Monitoring	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Single Reading	Lowest monthly # of samples meeting TT	TT Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
Turbidity	NTU	TT = % Samples < 0.3 NTU	N/A	0.070	100%	NO	Soil Runoff. Turbidity (cloudiness of the water) is a good indicator of our filtration effectiveness
Chlorine Performance Monitoring	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Average Detect	Range of Detects	MCL Violation	Likely Source of Chlorine
Entry Points	ppm	4	4	0.87	.62 - 1.88	NO	Water additive used to disinfect and control microbes
Chlorine Performance Monitoring	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Monthly Average	Range of Averages	MCL Violation	Likely Source of Chlorine
Distribution Points	ppm	4	4	0.65	0.56 - 0.77	NO	Water additive used to disinfect and control microbes
Microbiological Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest % of positive samples collected in any one month		MCL Violation	Likely Source of Total Coliform
Total Coliform	----	Presence of > 5% of Monthly Samples	0	< 1%		NO	Naturally present in the environment
Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Monitoring	Units	A.L.	MCLG	90th Percentile	Number of sites above A.L.	MCL Violation	Likely Source of Copper & Lead
Copper ¹	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.226	3 out of 50	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preserv.
Lead ¹	ppb	15	0	8	0 out of 50	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic and Organic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Detect	Range of Detects	MCL Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	ppm	2	2	0.8	0.59 - 0.90	NO	Erosion of natural deposits Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	7.0 ²	1.7 - 13.5	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	4.1	3.2 - 5.0	NO	Runoff from fertilizers; septic tank leaching, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene	ppb	5	0	1.2	0.6 - 1.9	NO	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	29.0 ²	9.0 - 99.9	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

1. Lead and copper results taken in 2007.

2. Compliance based on running average from the most recent four quarters of sampling.