



THE WATER WE DRINK BOROUGH OF ETNA 2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT



We're pleased to present this year's "The Water We Drink", our annual Consumer Confidence report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and 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 Etna Water Distribution System is permitted by identification number 5020017.

If you have questions about this report or your water utility, please contact either the Etna Borough Municipal Building at 412-781-0569, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or the Shaler Water Treatment Plant at 412-822-7766, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Regular meetings of the Etna Borough Council are held on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Board of Commissioners of Shaler Township meets the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building, 300 Wetzel Road, Glenshaw. Both meetings are open to the public. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understands it).

SOURCE OF WATER

We purchase our water from the Township of Shaler which draws its water supply from an alluvial deposit located beneath the Allegheny River. This aquifer is a formation of rock and gravel that contains a large amount of groundwater. A system of fourteen wells, five of which are owned by the Borough of Etna, are located along the river bank which have the capacity to deliver six million gallons per day to the treatment plant.

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

A Wellhead Protection Program is in place to protect the groundwater supply. This program regulates land use, physical facilities and activities which have the potential to contaminate groundwater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a new requirement under section 1453 of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. The Act requires each state to develop a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) to evaluate all drinking water sources that serve public drinking supplies and to provide a mechanism for development of local protection programs. The Borough of Etna and the Township of Shaler are working with the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement and develop a SWAP plan. This program includes forming a community planning team, defining the wellhead protection area, identifying local sources of contamination, managing the well recharge area through local ordinances, zoning, education programs and monitoring, planning for the population growth and changes in industry, commerce and land use and planning for emergencies and developing alternate water supplies. The ground water wells for the Borough of Etna and Shaler Township are located not far from PA Routes 8 and 28. These roads could present a low risk of potential contamination from road salt or spills. The potential risk from point sources (soil erosion, septic systems, storm water discharge and agricultural activities) is moderate. Because there is large volumes of fuel stored at refining facilities near the well field, the risk to the wells from accidental fuel spills is moderate-high due to the large volumes. An active railroad corridor also intersects the well field area, and numerous hazardous chemicals pass through on a daily basis. The risk to the wells from a railroad spill is high. The SWAP Plan is kept on file at the Etna Borough Municipal Building and the Shaler Township Water Treatment Plant and is available for review. This will greatly help to identify the source, should there ever be an occurrence of groundwater contamination. A summary of SWAP reporting can be found on the PA DEP website, www.dep.state.pa.us.

The water pumped from the aquifer is of very high quality, requiring only a minimum of treatment. It is monitored at the treatment plant hourly, twenty-four hours a day and is relatively free of bacterial contamination because the alluvial material through which the water moves screens out most of the bacteria.

As you will see in the chart on the page three, our system had no MCL violations. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

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

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of constituents. It is very important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html>. The Environmental Protection Agency has consumer confidence report resources available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccrl.html>. The Allegheny County Health Department has a website available for your access, too, which is <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/achd>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processing, petroleum production and mining activities
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

The Borough of Etna and the Township of Shaler routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The accompanying chart shows the result of the monitoring done for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009.

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 Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

In this chart you will find terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following 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 Maximum allowed is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see next definition) 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 risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin in safety

Non Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level

Parts per billion (ppb) - corresponds to one minute in two thousand years or a single penny in ten million dollars

Parts per million (ppm) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in ten thousand dollars. Equivalent to one milligram per liter (mg/l)

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.

LEVELS OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

<u>Contaminant</u> <u>(year sampled)</u>	<u>Violation</u> <u>Yes/No</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>Unit</u> <u>Measure-</u> <u>ment</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Maximum</u> <u>Allowable</u> <u>Level</u> <u>(MCL)</u>	<u>Ideal</u> <u>Health</u> <u>Goal</u> <u>(MCLG)</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Yes	2 positive May 2009	N/A	ND-1	>1 positive monthly sample*	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate** (2009)	No	1.2	ppm	***	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead and Copper Rule							
Lead (2007)	No	90 th percentile= 0	ppb	0 sites above AL out of 20 sites sampled	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (2007)	No	90 th percentile= 0.18	ppm	no sites above AL out of 20 sites sampled	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives.
Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) – (c) VOCs are monitored quarterly. "Level Detection" is from 3 rd quarter.							
Cis-1, 2, - Dichloroethylene (2009)	No	1.3	ppb	(c)	70	70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Tetrachloroethylene (2009)	No	.55	ppb	(c)	5	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals							
Trihalomethanes (2008)	No	24	ppb	***	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (2008)	No	0	ppb	***	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine (2009)	No	0.4	ppm	0.16 to 0.4	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.

Footnotes:

** = Samples collected within the Shaler Township Water System.

*** = Only one sample required.

****= The Borough reported their chlorine sample late in September of 2009 and also had two violations with coliform samples in May of 2009 (shown above).

SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

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 Borough of Etna and the Township of Shaler 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 method, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

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 provider. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Center for Disease Control 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We would like to thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family clean, quality water. We at the Borough of Etna and the Township of Shaler work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. We appreciate your comments and this report will be provided on an annual basis.

Borough of Etna
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