

2002
ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
CENTER TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

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Steve Gulla

Plant Operator



Water Emergency Telephone Numbers

- CTWA Plant, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday: 724-774-7766
- After Hours: 724-773-3109 (Beaver County Emergency Services Center)
- "Dial 9-1-1"



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 Center Township, Pennsylvania
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Maintenance Office: 200 Fairview Drive • Monaca, PA 15061 • Tel: 724-774-7766



Pumped up — Center Township Water Authority General Manager Ron Crisi (left) and authority Chief Clerk Verna Dugan Sisk accept certificate from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recognizing state leadership in developing “exemplary” Wellhead Protection Plan. DEP Program Manager Tom Vayansky (right) presented the award in a ceremony March 4 in CTWA offices at the Center Township Municipal Complex. CTWA was recognized as among the first group of DEP-approved voluntary Wellhead Protection programs in the Commonwealth and the first in the Pittsburgh Region. For more information on why our water system is so special, read the article below.

Our water: an 11,000-year old gift from Mother Nature

As virtually limitless and as pure our source of water is, it only makes sense to take care of it. That’s why Center Township Water Authority has taken the lead among water producers in Pennsylvania to protect its “phantom river,” a source older than the Ohio River itself.

The story of the phantom river begins more than 11,000 years ago when the leading edge of the last great ice age carved out a great series of deep gorges that would later become the cradles for the Allegheny and upper Ohio rivers.

As the southernmost glacier melted, it deposited the sand and crushed stone it picked up in its journey from the Arctic. The resulting water gushed into the Ohio River gorge, starting a flow that would become the great Mississippi River basin.

As time passed, the gravel was covered by many yards of silt and clay deposited at the bottom of the river. The Ohio River water percolated through more than 60 feet of gravel and sand, becoming naturally purified



CTWA Plant Operator Steve Gulla adjusts water flow to one of eight sand filter tanks leading to four water towers placed along the length of Brodhead Road.

as it dropped toward shale bedrock, forming a separate underground river beneath the Ohio.

The amount of water available from this source is limited only by

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Introduction

This is the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2002.

This report is designed to inform you about the quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide a dependable supply of drinking water from our water source of four (4) wells located along the Ohio River. We want you to understand the efforts we put forth to continually improve the water process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets Federal and State requirements.
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the
Center Township Water Authority at 724-774-7766
Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. You may attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Authority's office located at 224 Center Grange Road.

The Center Township Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Tables on this and the next page show the results of the latest monitoring required by regulation for the period from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of the Year 2002.

Definitions

The tables on this page and on Page 3 contain terms and definitions that may be unfamiliar to you. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminants (unit of measurement)	Violation? Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	N	0.09 (9/18/02)	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	N	0.29 (2001)	(b)	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.3 (9/18/02)	(a)	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	N	0.005 (2001)	(b)	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	N	0.16	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	N	3.5 (9/18/02)	(a)	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

NOTE: A waiver from monitoring for certain synthetic contaminants was granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on Feb. 7, 1995. A copy is on file at the authority office.

Footnotes:

- (a) - Samples were taken on the dates shown. These are the latest samples required by regulation.
- (b) - These are the 90th percentile results. All samples were below the Action Level.

We also analyzed water samples for the following constituents, but we did not detect these compounds:

Inorganic Contaminants	Volatiles Organic Contaminants	
Antimony	Benzene	Trichloroethylene
Arsenic	Carbon tetrachloride	Toluene
Barium	Chlorobenzene	Xylenes
Beryllium	o-Dichlorobenzene	
Cadmium	p-Dichlorobenzene	Unregulated Contaminants
Chromium	1,2-Dichloroethane	
Cyanide	1,1-Dichloroethylene	Perchlorate, total
Mercury	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	DCEPA acid degradate
Nickel	trans - 1,2-Dichloroethylene	Methyl-t-butyl ether
Nitrite	Dichloromethane	Nitrobenzene
Selenium	1,2-Dichloropropane	4,4'-DDE
Thallium	Ethylbenzene	Acetochlor
	Styrene	2,4 -Dinitrotoluene
Microbiological Contaminants	Tetrachloroethylene	2,6-Dinitrotoluene
Total Coliform	1,2,4 - Trichlorobenzene	EPTC
	1,1,1 - Trichloroethane	Molinate
	1,1,2 - Trichloroethane	Terbacil

As you can see in the tables, our system had no violations.

We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contaminants, either naturally or man-made. These constituents may 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 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. 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. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

In keeping with our pledge to provide a good drinking water source, the Department of Environmental Protection has approved and recognized the efforts of the Center Township Water Authority as among those in the first group of DEP-approved Wellhead Protection Plans in the Commonwealth as well as the first within the Pittsburgh Region. This Plan will assist in protecting the wells from possible contaminants and will protect public health and safety.

We at the Center Water Authority work around the clock to provide quality water to every tap. We ask all our customers to help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Protecting an 11,000-year old gift

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the number of wells sunk in the authority's wellfield located along the Ohio's southern banks between Monaca and the Vanport Bridge. The four, 16-inch wells each have a pumping capacity of 500 gallons a minute with an average daily production in the well field of 1.3 million gallons a day.

Water traveling from the wells receives a small shot of chlorine to prevent bacterial presence during the delivery process. It is then forced through giant filter tanks at the CTWA plant at the Beaver Valley Mall where minerals are removed. The water is dispatched to the four storage towers and hence to water taps of about

4,400 residential and commercial customers throughout the township.

To protect this unique and natural source of water, CTWA drew up an inch-and-a-half thick Wellhead Protection Plan in line with state pure-water rules.

The plan spells out prevention of damage of the wells from on-site security breaches or any events nearby that could have an effect on purity of the water such as runoff from construction, and hazardous-waste spills from nearby trains or truck traffic.

The wellhead is also brought into the public safety communication loop so police and firefighters know how to protect the wells during emergencies.