

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

JACKSON TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is purchased bulk from Nanty Glo Water Authority, which is treated surface water from a reservoir.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Jackson Township Water Authority at (814) 322-1262**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Water Authority office**. **Exceptions are November 20th and December 18th due to the holidays**.

Jackson Township Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, **2002**. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've 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.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level – (mandatory language) the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) 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

Microbiological Contaminants

| Contaminant (Unit of measurement) | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Total Coliform Bacteria | N | N/A | N/A | 0 | Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples | Naturally present in environment. |
| 2. Turbidity(ntu) | N | N/A | N/A | N/A | TT | Soil runoff |

Inorganic Contaminants

| Contaminant (Unit of measurement) | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|------|--------|--|
| 3. Copper (ppm) | N | 0.15 (8/01) | (c) | .08 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| 4. Lead (ppb) | N | 0.046 to 0.025 | (d) | 0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| 5. Nitrate(ppm) | N | 1.3 (5/02) | (e) | 10 | 10ppm | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |

(c) *Copper was detected but did not exceed action levels.*

(d) *Three of twenty samples taken in May exceeded action levels, six of the forty follow up samples exceeded actions levels*

(e) *Sample is not required. Nitrate was detected but did not exceed action levels.*

(1) Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

(2) Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

(3) Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

(4) Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

(5) Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

What does this mean?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents 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.**

MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

As many of you are aware, the Water Authority has been busy installing new meters with computerized outside mounted readouts (scanner type meters). Karl and David are concentrating on broken meters at this time. Once all broken meters are replaced they will then focus on the out-dated meters. The scanner type meters are more accurate at providing the amount of water used to the hundredth of gallons.

The water authority is also looking into the possibility of electronic payments. Enclosed at the end of this report is the form for this type of payment. If you are interested please fill out and return. We will **NOT** implement the service until we notify all customers whom submitted a form and granting there is enough interest. If there is **not** a positive response all forms submitted will be shredded.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as chemotherapy patients, organ transplants recipients, individuals 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 (800-426-4791).

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

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