2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Tamaqua Area Water Authority
Public Water System ID: 3540012

Water Authority

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to you. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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.

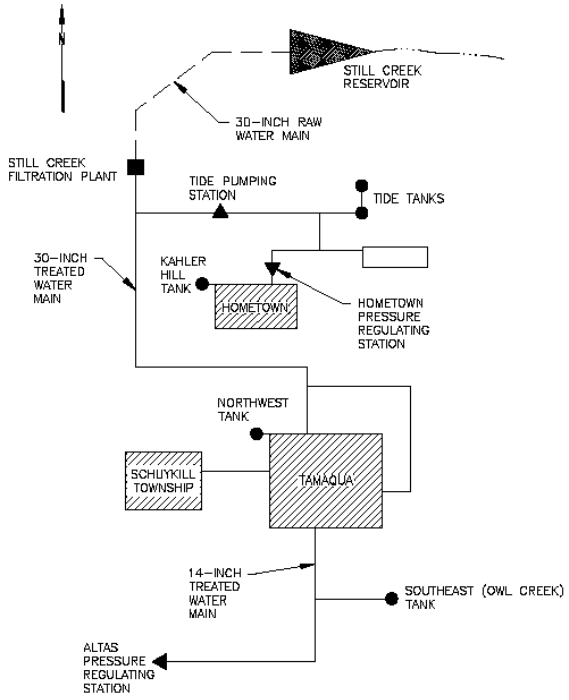
If you have any questions about this report or the water system, please contact Jay Stidham, Tamaqua Public Works Director, at (570) 668-0300. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Authority office at 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania.

Water Supply System

Our water source is surface water from Still Creek Reservoir, located in Rush Township, which has a total storage capacity of 2,700 million gallons. Raw water from the reservoir is treated at the Still Creek Filtration Plant before being distributed to water system customers. In 2024, Tamaqua water system served about 1.1 million gallons per day to 3,411 customers, of which 3,032 were residential customers. Water service was also provided to 317 commercial, 18 industrial, and 44 institutional/public customers.

Locations of the Tamaqua water system source of supply, filtration plant, major transmission mains, pumping station, pressure regulating stations, storage tanks, and general service area are shown on the accompanying schematic diagram.

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supply systems. We are happy to report that your drinking water meets Federal and State water quality requirements.



WATER SYSTEM SCHEMATIC
NO SCALE

Contamination Potential

As water travels over the surface of the 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 and from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in the raw (source) water before treatment 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil or gas production and mining activities.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or manmade. 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 associated with them can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or by visiting the EPA Office of Drinking Water website at http://water.epa.gov/drink.

Vulnerability

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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Monitoring

The Tamaqua Area Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows our monitoring results for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. This table shows only the contaminants that were detected and the level at which they were detected. There are many other contaminants that we tested for in 2024 and previous years that were not detected. The Authority is not required to monitor for some contaminants every year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The data shown in the following table are for the most recently collected sample for each contaminant. Remember that the presence of certain contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Definitions

Throughout this report you will find some terms and abbreviations that you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

- *Action Level (AL)* - The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- *Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)* - Running annual average at a specific sample site.
- *Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - 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 (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. The MRDLG does not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

- *Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)* - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
- *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- *Not applicable (n/a)* - Does not apply.
- *Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)* - One part per billion corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or a penny in $10,000,000.
- *Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - One part per million corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or a penny in $10,000. As a comparison, 1 ppm = 1,000 ppb.
- *Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l)* - One part per trillion corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000,000 years or a penny in $10,000,000,000. As a comparison, 1,000 ppt = 1 ppb.
- *Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- < - Less than the value indicated.

Source Water Protection

In 2003, a Source Water Assessment was completed that identified and evaluated potential contamination threats to the Authority's raw water source. The assessment found that our source water is potentially most susceptible to agricultural runoff. Overall, our source water has little risk of significant contamination. A copy of the report is available for review at the Authority office.

Notices of Violation

In fiscal year 2024, our water system received 12 Notices of Violation from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

Four violations were related to MCL exceedance for the running annual average of samples for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), and two of the violations were for failure to issue public notification regarding the MCL exceedance. Tamaqua subsequently issued the required public notice and addressed the two violations associated with public notification. HAA5 levels are a by-product of drinking water chlorination. *Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer*. Tamaqua has worked with PADEP to implement operational process adjustments that have reduced the levels of HAA5, and these constituents will continue to be monitored.

TEST RESULTS - DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG/ MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	No	100% of samples <0.3 NTU	0.013 to 0.156	N/A	TT = 95% of samples <0.3 NTU	Soil runoff.
Chlorine (Entry Point) (ppm)	No	1.0	1.0 to 1.73	N/A	MinRDL = 0.2	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (Distribution System) (ppm)	No	0.69 (a)	0.69 to 1.54 (a)	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Copper (ppm) (2022)	No	0.065 (b)	0.065 to 0.119	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	74.9 (c.)	36.8 to 82.6	N/A	60 (LRAA)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Lead (ppb) (2022)	No	<1.0 (b)	< 1.0 to 1.13	<1.0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon (Performance Ratio)	No	1.26	1.17 to 1.32	TT ≥ 1.0	N/A	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	No	56.6 (c)	32.5 to 60.3	N/A	80 (LRAA)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) (ppt)	No	0.805	0-0.805	14	18	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ppt)	No	1.48	0-1.48	8	14	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities

(a) Monthly average values. (b) "Level Detected" value shown is the 90th percentile value. (c) Highest LRAA.

Two violations were for not submitting our 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and Certification to the PADEP prior to the deadlines. The CCR and Certification have been submitted to the PADEP, and these violations have been addressed.

One violation was for late reporting of turbidity of the water entering the system. One violation was related to monitoring and reporting of entry point chlorine residual analytical results. Two violations were related to monitoring and reporting individual filter effluent and combined filter effluent turbidity results. All monitoring was done, but the reports were not submitted to PADEP within the required time frame. The reports have been submitted, and these violations have been addressed. Tamaqua has implemented procedures to assure that this type of monitoring violation does not reoccur.

Lead in 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 Tamaqua Area Water Authority 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.

The Tamaqua Area Water Authority was selected to participate in EPA's Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerator Program. This program provides direct technical assistance to facilitate support in developing the required water service line inventory and planning for the removal of any lead water service lines identified.

Tamaqua prepared a service line inventory of our system that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed by contacting our office at (570)-668-0300.

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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the EPA website at www.epa.gov/lead.

Customer Notification System

The Authority maintains an automatic telephone dialing system to comply with the PADEP Public Notification Rule. The system will be used to quickly notify our customers of water system-related issues, as required by PADEP. In order to maintain a current and accurate database, we ask all water system customers to notify the Authority by calling (570) 668-0300 if you change your address and/or telephone number.

Summary

As you can see by the Test Results table, the Authority's water system had one water quality exceedance in 2024. Through our monitoring and testing programs, some constituents have been detected; however, the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels for the general population.

Landlords, apartment managers, businesses, schools, and others are encouraged to share this 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report with all water consumers at their respective locations. We thank you for your cooperation in distributing this important information.

The Tamaqua Area Water Authority works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water source, which is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.