

MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY OF ALIQUIPPA 2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are pleased to present the annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to update you about the water and services we deliver to you every day. Our continuing mission is to provide you with a reliable 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. Our water supply comes from a well field located along the Ohio River where water is pumped from collector wells and several vertical wells. Our water treatment plant softens the hard well water to reduce mineral deposits on water piping and improve taste and quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerning the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa (MWAA) please contact our office.

A source water assessment of our wells was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to accidental spills from traffic along the railways, roads, and river. Overall, our sources have a high risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the assessment are available by writing to the MWAA at the address above and are available on the PA DEP website (<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10048>). Complete reports are available for review at the PA DEP Pittsburgh Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 412-442-4000.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with AIDS/HIV 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 microbial contaminants are available from the *EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. 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 or from human activity. Contaminates 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 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 and 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The MWAA routinely monitors the chemistry of your drinking water in accordance with State and Federal Regulations. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. Food and Drug Administration and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the *EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.

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 Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa 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 methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for the MWAA water system: Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our office.

We will continue to monitor your water to ensure we provide your family with reliable water meeting all regulatory standards. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community. 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. Please call our office if you have any questions.

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

***** TEST RESULTS *****

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (Unit of measure)	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb) (25 samples in 2009)	No	5.6	0 – 8.7	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) (25 samples in 2009)	No	33.8	1.9 - 62.1	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Contaminant (Unit of measure)	Violation Yes/No	90th Percentile Value	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	MCLG	Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) (30 samples in 2007)	No	9	0 out of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) (30 samples in 2007)	No	0.341	1 out of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Disinfectants (Unit of measure)	Violation Yes/No	Highest Monthly Average	Range	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) (15 samples each month in 2009)	No	0.761	0.281 – 0.761	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

As you can see by the above tables, our system had no violations based on testing performed by MWAA. 15 samples per month were also tested for total and fecal coliform and all analytical results were negative (i.e. no detections). 24 additional monitoring samples each of TTHM and HAA5 was taken as part of a distribution system evaluation to identify additional sampling locations for a new regulation that takes affect in 2012.

To help you better understand some of the terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with, we've provided the following definitions:

- *Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* – one part per million parts in the sample. This corresponds to one penny in ten thousand dollars.
- *Parts per billion (ppb)* – one part per billion parts in the sample. This corresponds to one penny in ten million dollars.
- *Action Level* – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatments or other requirements which a water system must implement.
- *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 Maximum Contaminant Level Goals 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.
- *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 contaminants.

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