Greater Johnstown Water Authority 2015 Annual Water Quality Report Public Water Supply Identification No. 4110034

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

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority is pleased to present our annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015. This report provides information about our system, the quality of our water, and important related health information. The Greater Johnstown Water Authority's drinking water continues to meet and surpass all federal and state drinking water standards. Our goal is to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water.

We are interested in your thoughts about our 2015 Annual Water Quality Report. If you have any questions or comments about it, or any concerns about your drinking water, please contact Marty Ward at 533-4300 ext. 148 during regular business hours. We encourage public interest and participation in decisions affecting our community's drinking water. Regular monthly meetings occur on the second Thursday of the month at the Greater Johnstown Water Authority office located at 640 Franklin Street at 5:00 P.M. The public is welcome. You can also find out more about The Greater Johnstown Water Authority on the Internet at http://www.gjwa.com.

Important Health Information for People with Severely Weakened Immune Systems

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hot Line. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Protecting Your Water Sources

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed in the years 2002 to 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to accidents and spills along roadways, road de-icing, non-point source contamination from residences, agriculture, horses/livestock, and past mining practices. Overall, our sources have little to moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority, 242 Neil Street, Johnstown, PA 15904. They are also available on the PADEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (Keyword: "DEP source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Cambria District Office Records Management Unit at 814-472-1900.

Where does your water come from? How is it treated?

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority is supplied by surface water from the North Fork Reservoir, Dalton Reservoir and Quemahoning Reservoir. These three reservoirs, located in northern Somerset County in Conemaugh Township, supply water to the Riverside Water Treatment Plant at 242 Neil Street in South Riverside. The three sources can be used individually or blended together depending on the raw water quality and quantity. The benefits provided by the water treatment plant include: removing disease producing organisms, removing iron and manganese, removing suspended and colloidal matter, reducing corrosiveness, reducing color, and removing unpleasant taste and odor. Fluoride is also added to prevent cavities in children's teeth.

The three primary treatment processes are 1.) coagulation/flocculation where dirt particles are aggregated together, 2.) filtration where the aggregate dirt particles are removed, and 3.) disinfection where chlorine is added to inactivate bacteria. During 2015, an average of 8.2 million gallons of water per day was treated at the Riverside Treatment Plant. The plant is operated 24 hours a day by Resource Development and Management - Johnstown, LLC operators who are certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Definitions

Parts per million (ppm) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.
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 or 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 or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – Unit of measurement for the cloudiness of water.

Abbreviations

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
TT = Treatment Technique
AL = Action Level
n/a = not applicable
pci/L= Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
MRDL= Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal

Water Quality Table

These columns show the results of tests on our finished water.

Chemical Contaminant	MCL In CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride 2015	2	2	0.99	0.38-0.99	ppm	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Barium 3/4/15	2	2	0.042	N/A	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling waste, from metal refineries and erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) 2015	80	N/A	49.0	14.4-79.8[1]	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate/Nitrites 5/6/15	10	10	0.0	N/A	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS's) 2015	60	N/A	52.0	9.2—98.0[1]	ppb	N	By product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine 2015 (distribution)	4	4	1.22	0.95-1.22	ppm	N	Water additive to control microbes

Entry point Disinfectant residual	Min. disinfectant res.	Lowest level detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine 2015	0.2	0.36	0.36-1.75	ppm	3/19/15	N	Water additive to control microbes.

Lead and copper	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead[2] 2013	15	0	0	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper 2013	1.3	1.3	0.094	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

Turbidity	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity[3] 2015	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.21 NTU	2/24/15	N	Soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%[4]	N/A	N	

Microbial 2015	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of positive samples	Violation Y/N	Source of contamination
Total coliform bacteria	For systems that collect > 40 samples/mth	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform bacteria or E. coli	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

[1]This number is the highest running average over a four-quarter sampling period.
[2]Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, and you may flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
[3]Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because turbidity is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Federal regulations have set a Treatment Technique (TT) limit of 0.30 NTU in 95% of samples. Our maximum turbidity reading was 0.21 NTU.
[4]In 2015, 100% of turbidity samples met the turbidity limits.

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Strontium 2015	N/A	N/A	100	27-100	ppb	N	
Chromium 6 2015	N/A	N/A	0.069	0.039-0.069	ppb	N	
Chlorate 2015	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	ppb	N	

Entry point Disinfectant residual	Min. disinfectant res.	Lowest level detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination

Lead and copper	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination

Turbidity	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
		0				

Microbial	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of positive samples	Violation Y/N	Source of contamination

Water Quality and Health Related Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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 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 septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
* Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
* Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
*Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority and RDM Johnstown, LLC, its manager, are ready to respond to your calls Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency calls are answered around the clock at 533-4300. The following numbers are listed for your convenience:

RDM Resident Manager
Mike Kerr- - - - - - - - - 533-4300 ext. 119
Customer Services:
Billing Questions- - - - - - - -533-4300
Transfers / Moves- - - - - - - 533-4300
Collection Department- - - - 533-4300
Meter Readings- - - - - - - - -533-4300
Dirty Water Complaints- - - 533-4300
Laboratory- - - - - - - - - - - - 533-4300 ext. 148
Riverside Treatment Plant- -533-4300 ext. 147

Water Trivia

Did you know?

A. Is it possible for you to drink water that was part of the dinosaur era?
Yes - water is constantly recycled

B. There are Approximately one million miles of pipelines and aqueducts in the U.S. and Canada, enough to circle the earth 40 times

C. The first water pipes in the U.S. were made from fire charred bored logs.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

2015 Update

Paying bills online is the new wave of the future as almost everyone has a smartphone, a laptop or a tablet. It's the thing to do. Our customers can now view their account and pay their water bills online if they choose. We announced this service in an ad in the newspaper and it is really taking off. You can sign up at gjwa.authoritypay.com or there is a link on the GJWA website at gjwa.com.

A final fix was put in place for the Central Avenue 30" main that was damaged and temporarily repaired in July of 2014 when a PennDOT subcontractor doing preliminary work for a future project of theirs on the Central Avenue Bridge mistakenly drilled into our 30" line in the river wall disrupting a main feed of water into the City from the Riverside Treatment Plant. Straw Construction Co. Inc. installed a hydrostop allowing a major re-work of valves and mains, and an E-Z Valve was also installed in Bridge Street to allow alternative flow in the area. RDM-Johnstown LLC employees as well contributed many man hours and an innovative solution to repair and markedly improve this vital line into the City. Regular maintenance is always an important consideration in the budgets every year and, following in the GJWA's diligent efforts to maintain their appurtenances, the Oakland Tank was painted this year. In another area of the system, Ferri Contracting installed one Cla-Val pressure reducing valve in a new valve vault in Kurtz Avenue. We were reimbursed for 50% of our costs by PennDOT on the utility relocation projects on Locust Street / Frankstown Road and on the Goucher Street project. Working together benefits everyone!

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Greater Johnstown Water Authority
P.O. Box 1407
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2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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