

Conway Borough 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Where does my water come from?

Conway Borough (PWSID 5040022) purchases all of its water from the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority (BFMA). BFMA draws its water from the Beaver River and treats the water at its Eastvale Water Treatment Plant. BFMA has prepared a Drinking Water Quality Report for the Year 2016 and also has a source water assessment report. Both reports can be obtained by calling James Stevenson of BFMA at (724) 846-2400.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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).

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. Conway Borough 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 still 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 want 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>.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, 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:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and
- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

How can I get involved?

We want our customers to be informed about their drinking water. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this report or any other drinking water related issues, you are encouraged to attend the Conway Borough Council Meetings, which are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Conway Borough Fire Hall No. 2, located at the corner of Fosta and Gross Street. For more information please contact Diane McKay, Borough Secretary at 1208 Third Avenue, Conway, PA 15027, telephone (724) 869-5550, fax (724) 869-9959.

Water Test Results

The table on the following page lists all water contaminants that were detected during the 2016 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless noted otherwise, the data presented in this table is from January 1 – December 31, 2016. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than 1 year old.

Detected Contaminants Table

Turbidity								
Contaminant	MCL		MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination	
Turbidity (NTU) (a)	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement		0	100%(b)	2016 (Continuous Monitoring)	N	Self runoff	
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples<0.3NTU			0.072				
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products (DBPs)								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest RAA	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.58	0.10 – 0.90	ppm	2016	N	Water additive to control microbes
Chloramine (a)	4	4	1.42	0.78 – 1.42	ppm	2016	N	Water additive to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	27.6	0.0 – 27.0	ppb	2016	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes	60	N/A	53.0	24.7 – 83.0	ppb	2016	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs)								
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrates (a)	10	10	0.97	N/A	ppm	6/2016	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Barium (a)	2	2	0.045	N/A	ppm	10/2016	N	Discharge of drilling waste.
Flouride (a)	2(c)	4	0.64	0.37 – 0.64	ppm	11/2016	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (a) (d)	N/A	250	95.78	71.58–95.78	ppm	10/2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.55 (2016)	ppm	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.	
Lead	15	0	3 (2016)	ppb	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)								
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination			
TOC (a)	25-45	34.1 – 46.7	0	N	Naturally present in the environment			

(a) Analysis performed by Beaver Falls Municipal Authority.

(b) The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits specified by DEP regulations.

(c) EPA's MCL for Flouride is 4ppm, however Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

(d) Sulfate is not a regulated IOC; it is a secondary contaminant.

Units Descriptions:

ppm= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L); ppb= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L); NTU= Nephelometric Turbidity Units

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG= Maximum Containment Level Goal: The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCL= Maximum Containment Level: 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. TT= Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. AL= Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. MRDLG= Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: 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. MRDL= Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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. RAA= Running Annual Average. TOC= Total Organic Carbon.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they can contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public sewer system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water". Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your water body.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Important information about your drinking water. Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority. The Beaver Falls Municipal Authority has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. 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 the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority at 724-847-7387.