

# Annual Water Report

## Borough of Catasauqua 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### INTRODUCTION

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act as amended requires all water suppliers to issue an Annual Consumer Confidence Report on the quality of their drinking water. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided in 2017. Included are details about where the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

We are committed to providing you with information to increase your understanding of drinking water and the need to protect our precious water resources. For more information about your water, you can call the Waterworks at (610) 266-0455 or the administrative office at (610) 264-0571. We encourage public interest and participation in our meetings and decisions affecting our drinking water and other issues. Regular Borough Council meetings occur on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building, 90 Bridge Street, Catasauqua, PA.

Catasauqua's drinking water comes entirely from three municipally owned and operated ground water sources (wells). All are located within 1200 feet of the Catasauqua water plant at Walnut and Saint John Streets. The wells are pumped into a raw water building where chlorine gas, for disinfection, and hydrofluosilicic acid, for fluoridation, are added. It is then pumped to two 400,000 gallon storage tanks for chlorine disinfection contact time, and then proceeds out into the distribution system.

I am pleased to report the Borough of Catasauqua's drinking water surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards. In fact, in 2004 and 2008 in a blind taste test, Catasauqua's water was determined to be the best tasting in the Lehigh Valley. The taste test was conducted during the Annual Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers Taste Test Contest during Water Awareness Week.



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### General Educational Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount 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 risks may be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

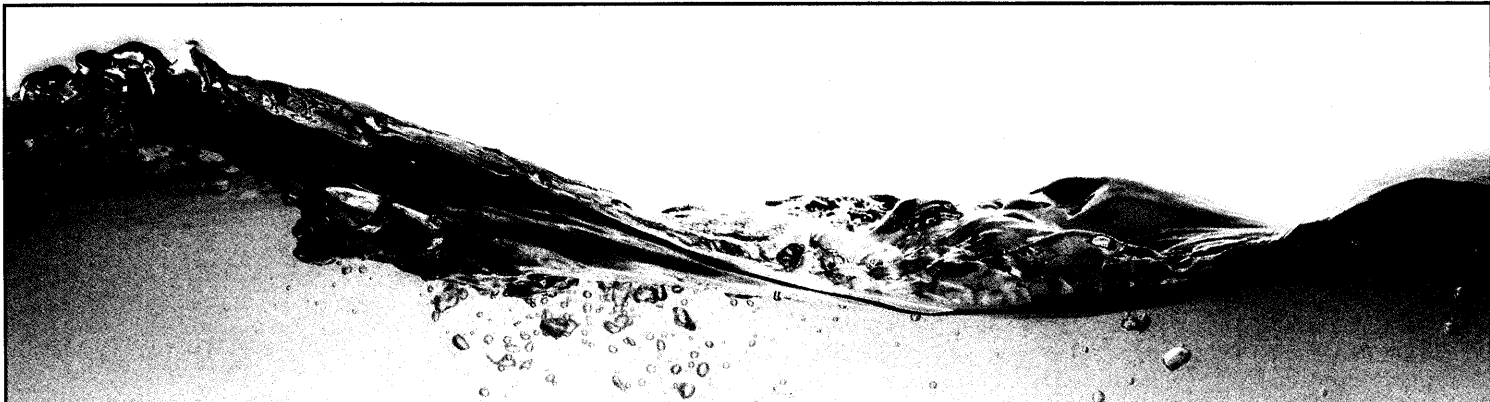
#### Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune 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/Center for Disease Control 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

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants* such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wild life.
- *Inorganic contaminants* such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses and storm water.
- *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 organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes, can also come from gas stations, storm water 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 the water and public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## CATASAUQUA 2017 WATER QUALITY DATA

The following tables list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2017 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing completed between January 1 and December 31, 2017. 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. In those instances, the date of last testing is shown on the table.

### Terms and abbreviations used in the tables:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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 contamination.

- **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter, one penny in \$10,000.
- **ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter, one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- **NA** = not applicable.
- **ND** = Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. You could also let your tap run for 30 seconds to 2 minutes to flush the line before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The Borough is committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of drinking water to all our customers. As part of that commitment we maintain an active membership in many organizations whose focus is primarily associated with drinking water. These include membership in the American Water Works Association and the Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers, Inc.

In 2003 the Borough began a multi-year program to replace the water meters throughout the system. This multi-year project will upgrade our meters to a touch pad style making readings easier and billings more accurate. In some cases the touch pad register itself will be moved to make it accessible to the meter reader without having to go through locked backyards or into new construction that has been built around the utility areas. *Continued on page 4 ...*

Inorganic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level (ave.)	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources
Nitrates <sup>1</sup>	ppm	10	10	6.7	6.9-6.5	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage erosion, natural deposits

Lead/Copper Last Tested 2016	Units	AL	MCLG	Detected Level (ave.)	Violation	Major Source
Lead	ppb	15	0	10.4	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.300	0	0.106	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level (ave.)	Violation	Major Source
Total Trihalomethanes Last Tested 2017	ppb	80	N/A	10.4	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine <sup>2</sup>	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG= 4	1.16-1.29	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Performance Monitoring	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level (ave.)	Violation	Major Source
Total Coliform	% of Samples	0% of monthly samples	0	0%	NO	Naturally present in the environment. Also resulting from animal and human activity.
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	NTU	1 NTU as a monthly average	NA	0.10	NO	Naturally occurring

Unregulated Contaminants	Units	MCL	Max. Level Detected	Last Tested
Gross Alpha <sup>4</sup>	Picocurie/liter	15	2.92	10/02/14

<sup>1</sup> Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask your health care provider for advice.

<sup>2</sup> Shown in the chart is the range of monthly average results for distribution chlorine residuals. The highest monthly average reported was 1.29 in January.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It can interfere with disinfection processes at high levels.

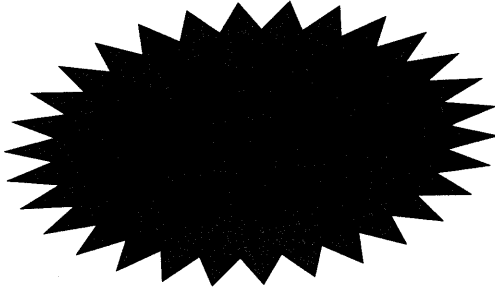
<sup>4</sup> Alpha and Radium radioactivity occur naturally in various parts of the country, in groundwater. The possible exposure to radiation in drinking water is only a fraction of the exposure from all natural sources

In addition to the contaminants on the tables, various tests are performed daily, seven days a week, on our drinking water. These include chlorine, fluoride, turbidity, ph., temperature and conductivity. Each month 14 locations in the distribution system are also tested for total coliform, as well as chlorine, ph. and fluoride residuals. Tests are conducted by the two plant certified operators and a certified laboratory under contract to the Borough.

We are required to monitor your daily drinking water for specified contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indication of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 4th Quarter of 2017 we failed to sample for Nitrate and Nitrite and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. To correct this we have sampled in the 1st Quarter of 2018 for Nitrate and Nitrite. Results were under the MCL as reported to DEP.

90 Bridge Street  
Catasauqua, PA 18032

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
LEHIGH VALLEY PA  
PERMIT NO 15



**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECR-WSS  
Catasauqua PA 18032**

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If you would like more information and or education about issues related to drinking water the following is a list of organizations and websites you may want to visit.

American Water Works Association  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers  
[www.lwwater.org](http://www.lwwater.org)

Pa Dept of Environmental Protection  
[www.dep.state.pa.us/](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/)

You can also contact the Borough Manager Steve Travers (610) 264-0571 with any comments or questions about this report or any issue involving the Borough's drinking water.



**The Borough  
is committed to  
providing a safe  
and reliable  
supply of  
drinking water  
to all our  
customers.**

## **CATASAUQUA WEBSITE**

The Borough of Catasauqua has established a website which can be accessed at [www.catasauqua.org](http://www.catasauqua.org). The information contained in this report is also available on our website as is a whole host of other information including upcoming ordinances, a calendar of upcoming Council meetings and Borough events, as well as items of general information. We try to update the information regularly since a stale website is worse than no website at all. If you have any suggestions for additional information you would like to see on the website or suggested improvements to it, please feel free to contact us at [info@catasauqua.org](mailto:info@catasauqua.org).