

BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA – PWSID 3390044
2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

The Borough of Catasauqua is pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided in 2023. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Borough’s administrative offices at (610) 264-0571. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Council meetings. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at Borough Hall located at 90 Bridge Street. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

SOURCES OF WATER

Catasauqua’s drinking water comes entirely from three municipally owned and operated ground water sources (wells). All are located within 1,200 feet of the Catasauqua water plant at Walnut and Saint John Streets. Each day we produce approximately 500,000 gallons of drinking water for our customers.

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to auto repair shops, cemeteries, funeral homes, and gas service stations and repair shops. Overall, our sources have high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: <http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetFolder?FolderID=4490>. 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 Pa. DEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 826-2511.

<p>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).</p>
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WATER TREATMENT

The Borough’s wells are treated at the water treatment plant using chlorine for disinfection; the addition of Fluoride was discontinued in 2023.

The Water Plant received a Notice of Violation due to a lab error in Nitrate testing.

MONITORING YOUR WATER

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

DEFINITIONS

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 (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. MRDLGs do 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.

Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS
BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA – PWSID 3390044

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrates	10	10	6.08	5.83-6.27	ppm	2023	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (Five)	60	NA	<0.001	NA*	ppb	2023	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	-	.26-1.54	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

*No Range Sampled 1x/yr

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.40	0.80	0.80-1.84	ppm	2023	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper *							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	ppb	3.0	ppb	2 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.123	ppm or mg/l	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

*2022 Sample year. Sample year due in 2025.

Semivolatiles

PFAS, 537.1

PFOS	2.12	ng/L	EPA 537.1	1.61	1	04/05/24	MEL	04/08/24	16:43	MWS
PFOA	< 1.74	ng/L	EPA 537.1	1.74	1	04/05/24	MEL	04/08/24	16:43	MWS

Surrogate Recoveries	Results	Units	Method	%Recovery	DF	Limits (%Recovery)	Analysis Date
Surrogate: 13C2-PFHxA	33.5	ng/L	EPA 537.1	96%	1	70-130	04/08/24 16:43
Surrogate: 13C2-PFDA	33.3	ng/L	EPA 537.1	96%	1	70-130	04/08/24 16:43
Surrogate: d5-NEIFOSAA	123	ng/L	EPA 537.1	88%	1	70-130	04/08/24 16:43
Surrogate: 13C3-HFPO-DA	32.2	ng/L	EPA 537.1	92%	1	70-130	04/08/24 16:43

Sample Number: 4D02477-02	Site: EP 101 FRB	Sample ID:
Collector: SMC-STL	Collect Date: 04/04/2024 8:57 am	Sample Type: Grab
Sample Regulatory ID: 3390044	SDWA Reporting IDs: (FRB / /)	

Department / Test / Parameter	Result	Units	Method	R.L.	DF	Prep Date	By	Analysis Date	By
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Semivolatiles

PFAS, 537.1

PFOS	< 1.59	ng/L	EPA 537.1	1.59	1	04/10/24	MEL	04/10/24	22:42	MWS
PFOA	< 1.72	ng/L	EPA 537.1	1.72	1	04/10/24	MEL	04/10/24	22:42	MWS

Surrogate Recoveries	Results	Units	Method	%Recovery	DF	Limits (%Recovery)	Analysis Date
Surrogate: 13C2-PFHxA	30.1	ng/L	EPA 537.1	88%	1	70-130	04/10/24 22:42
Surrogate: 13C2-PFDA	32.6	ng/L	EPA 537.1	95%	1	70-130	04/10/24 22:42
Surrogate: d5-NEIFOSAA	119	ng/L	EPA 537.1	87%	1	70-130	04/10/24 22:42
Surrogate: 13C3-HFPO-DA	28.9	ng/L	EPA 537.1	84%	1	70-130	04/10/24 22:42

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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 human activity. Contaminants 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 run-off, 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 run-off and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to assure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

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 Borough of Catasauqua 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>.

INFORMATION ABOUT NITRATE

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.