**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**
**221 S. CENTRE STREET**
**POTTSVILLE, PA 17901**
**(570) 622-8240; FAX: (570) 622-8248**
**Patrick M. Caulfield, P.E., Executive Director**

June 27, 2014

Dear Schuylkill County Municipal Authority Customer:

On August 19, 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a new regulation requiring water system operators to provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their water. The enclosed report contains detailed information describing the source of the water supply, the maximum levels of contaminants allowed in the drinking water, and the highest level and range of values of certain substances detected in the water. We feel this is an important step in opening the lines of communication between the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority and our water customers.

This report is made available to you online at www.scmawater.com/wqr or by calling our office at 570-622-8240. Landlords and business owners are encouraged to make copies of this water quality report available to their tenants, employees and customers, and to post it in common areas for all to read. Please call us and we will be happy to provide you with extra copies.

Our mission is "To serve our Schuylkill County customers with the best quality drinking water and to provide the most reliable wastewater treatment services" in concert with our Core Values of Customer, Co-worker/Team, Community and Conservation.

Should you have any other questions on this matter, please call our office at 570-622-8240 or visit our website at www.scmawater.com.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Caulfield, P.E.
Executive Director

# 2013
# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
# SCHUYLKILL COUNTY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

PWS ID # 3540038, 3540046, 3540054

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.)*

We are very pleased to provide you with the **2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a dependable and adequate supply of drinking water.

## Source(s) of Water:

Six (6) water treatment plants service our customers. The following illustrates the facility, the source of supply and the service area for each plant:

| Facility | Source | Service Area |
|---|---|---|
| Mt. Laurel Water Filtration Plant | Mt. Laurel Reservoir<br>Kauffman Reservoir | Portions of Butler, Cass, Foster, New Castle, Mahanoy, Ryan and West Mahanoy Townships |
| Broad Mt. Water Filtration Plant | Wolf Creek Reservoir<br>Eisenhuth Reservoir<br>Pine Run Reservoir<br>Kauffman Reservoir | City of Pottsville (East of 12th St.), Mechanicsville, Palo Alto, Port Carbon, St. Clair and portions of Blythe, East Norwegian, New Castle and Norwegian Townships |
| Indian Run Water Filtration Plant | Indian Run Reservoir | City of Pottsville (West of 12th St.), Forest Hills, Bunker Hill and Mt. Carbon areas. Portions of North Manheim and Norwegian Townships |
| Gordon Water Plant | Groundwater Well | Portions of Butler, Cass, Foster, New Castle, Mahanoy, Ryan and West Mahanoy Townships |
| Tremont Water Filtration Plant | Groundwater Wells | Tremont Borough and portions of Frailey and Tremont Township |
| Pinebrook Plant | Groundwater Well | Pinebrook Development, West Brunswick Township |

## Water System Information:

This report shows our water quality and what it means. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Public meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. at the office of the Authority.

We at the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. A source water assessment was completed by the Philadelphia Water Department for the PA DEP on the entire Schuylkill River Watershed. This report was dated March 14, 2003 and included all SCMA surface water supplies. In 2008, SCMA received approval from PaDEP for our Source Water Protection Plan that identifies actual and potential sources of contamination to the source water, educates the public on the importance of source water protection, develops a long-term sustainable plan for the future protection of the source water, and provides a comprehensive action plan in the event of a source water contamination emergency. The Plan, which is a collaborative effort amongst six local water suppliers, is available for review at the Authority office. The first project that is to be implemented as a result of the approval of the plan is a spill response signage program along Interstate I-81.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Patrick M. Caulfield, P.E., Executive Director or Amy S. Batdorf, Assistant Director at (570) 622-8240 or visit our website at www.scmawater.com. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

## 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, 2013. 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.

## Detected Sample Results

The following tables represents the samples collected from the Pottsville Area System (PWS ID 3540038), the Tremont System (PWS ID 3540046) and the Pinebrook System (PWS ID 3540054) that resulted in detection. Again, it is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

| ***Chemical Contaminants*** | | **Mt. Laurel Plant** | | **Broad Mt. Plant** | | **Indian Run Plant** | | **Gordon Plant** | | **Tremont Plant** | | **Pinebrook Plant** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Units | MCL | MCLG | Sample Date | Likely Sources of Contamination |
| Chlorine | N | 0.81 | 0.53-0.81 | 0.81 | 0.53-0.81 | 0.81 | 0.53-0.81 | 0.81 | 0.53-0.81 | 1.20 | 0.68-1.20 | 1.21 | 0.65-1.21 | ppm | MRDL = 4 | MRDLG = 4 | 2013 | Water additive used to control microbes. Distribution disinfectant level reported as highest monthly average and range. |
| TTHM | N | 16.5 | 3.2-41.8 | 34.0 | 9.4-49.9 | 45.1 | 24.0-62.0 | N/A | N/A | 1.5 | 1.5 | ND | ND | ppb | 80 | N/A | 2012/2013 | By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range. |
| HAA5 | N | 9.5 | 1.4-18.3 | 26.6 | 4.6-31.4 | 13.5 | 4.6-28.3 | N/A | N/A | ND | ND | ND | ND | ppb | 60 | N/A | 2012/2013 | By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range. |
| Arsenic | N | 0.20 | 0.20 | ND | ND | 0.18 | 0.18 | 1.6 | 1.6 | ND | ND | 0.27 | 0.27 | ppb | 10 | 0 | 2012/2013 | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Barium | N | 0.0203 | 0.0203 | 0.0184 | 0.0184 | 0.0102 | 0.0102 | 0.0045 | 0.0045 | 0.0626 | 0.0626 | 0.0119 | 0.0119 | ppm | 2 | 2 | 2012/2013 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Cadmium | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | N/A | N/A | ND | ND | ND | ND | ppb | 5 | 5 | 2012/2013 | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints. |
| Chromium | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | N/A | N/A | ND | ND | 0.3300 | 0.3300 | ppb | 100 | 100 | 2012/2013 | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Mercury | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.049 | 0.049 | ND | ND | ppb | 2 | 2 | 2012/2013 | Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills and cropland. |
| Nickel | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | 0.48 | 0.48 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 0.65 | 0.65 | ppm | 100 | 100 | 2012/2013 | Industrial processes such as coal gasification, petroleum refining, and hydrogenation of fats and oils; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Selenium | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.69 | 0.69 | ppb | 50 | 50 | 2012/2013 | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines. |
| Nitrate | N | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | ND | 2.97 | 2.97 | ppm | 10 | 10 | 2013 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |

| ***Lead & Copper*** | | **Mt. Laurel Plant** | **Broad Mt. Plant** | **Indian Run Plant** | **Gordon Plant** | **Tremont Plant** | **Pinebrook Plant** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | 90th Percentile Value | 90th Percentile Value | 90th Percentile Value | 90th Percentile Value | 90th Percentile Value | 90th Percentile Value | Units | MCL | MCLG | Sample Date | Likely Sources of Contamination |
| Copper (ppm) | N | Pottsville System Level Detected = 0.145 | | | | 0.448 | 0.602 | ppm | AL = 1.3 | 1.3 | 2013 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Reported as 90th percentile value and number of samples exceeding action limit (1.3 ppm). |
| # of samples exceeding AL | | 0 out of 30 | | | | 0 out of 10 | 1 out of 10 | | | | | |
| Lead (ppb) | N | Pottsville System Level Detected = 7 | | | | 6.1 | 3.9 | ppb | AL = 15 | 0 | 2013 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits. Reported as 90th percentile value and number of samples exceeding action limit (15 ppb). |
| # of samples exceeding AL | | 1 out of 30 | | | | 1 out of 10 | 0 out of 10 | | | | | |

| *Turbidity* | | Mt. Laurel Plant | | Broad Mt. Plant | | Indian Run Plant | | Gordon Plant | | Tremont Plant | | Pinebrook Plant | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Units | MCL | MCLG | Sample Date | Likely Sources of Contamination |
| Turbidity (ntu) | N | 0.13 | 100% | 0.30 | 100% | 0.14 | 100% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | NTU | 0.30 | 0.30 | 2013 | Soil runoff. |
| | | TT = at least 95% of monthly samples <0.3 NTU | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| *Total Organic Carbon* | | Mt. Laurel Plant | | Broad Mt. Plant | | Indian Run Plant | | Gordon Plant | | Tremont Plant | | Pinebrook Plant | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Level Detected | Range | Units | MCL | MCLG | Sample Date | Likely Sources of Contamination |
| Raw TOC | N | 1.10 | 0.66-1.45 | 1.38 | 1.08-1.75 | 1.88 | 1.59-2.22 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | ppm | TT | N/A | 2013 | Naturally present in the environment. Reported as highest annual average and range. |
| Treated TOC | N | 0.75 | 0.65-0.84 | N/A | N/A | 1.05 | 0.88-1.34 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | ppm | TT | N/A | 2013 | Naturally present in the environment. Reported as highest annual average and range. |

| *Entry Point Disinfectant Residual* | | Mt. Laurel Plant | | Broad Mt. Plant | | Indian Run Plant | | Gordon Plant | | Tremont Plant | | Pinebrook Plant | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Lowest Level Detected | Range | Units | MinRDL | Sample Date | Likely Sources of Contamination |
| Chlorine | N | 0.50 | 0.50-1.21 | 0.50 | 0.50-1.20 | 0.45 | 0.45-1.31 | 0.62 | 0.62-1.50 | 0.42 | 0.42-1.30 | 0.52 | 0.52-1.32 | ppm | 0.20 | 2013 | Water additive used to control microbes. Reported as entry point disinfectant residual. |

## Definitions:

You will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with in this report. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**N/A** = not applicable; not required

**ND** = not detectable at testing limit

**NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units

**ppb =** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000

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

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

## Health Effects:

We are proud that all of our water quality parameters have met or surpassed all State and Federal Requirements. IN 2013 NO MCL'S OR TREATMENT TECHNIQUES WERE EXCEEDED. MCL'S are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

## 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 from 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 runoff, 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 ensure 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 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 Schuylkill County Municipal Authority 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.*

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**We are proud to report that all of our water quality parameters have met or surpassed both State and Federal Requirements. In 2013, No Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or Treatment Techniques (TTs) were exceeded.**