



# 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report SCHUYLKILL COUNTY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

PWS ID # 3540038, 3540046, 3540054, 3540062

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 **2019 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:

Seven (7) water treatment plants service our customers. The following illustrates the facility, the source of supply and the service area for each plant:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Service Area</u>
Mt. Laurel Water Filtration Plant	Mt. Laurel Reservoir Kauffman Reservoir	Portions of Butler, Cass, Foster, New Castle, Mahanoy, Ryan and West Mahanoy Townships
Broad Mt. Water Filtration Plant	Wolf Creek Reservoir Eisenhuth Reservoir Pine Run Reservoir Kauffman Reservoir	City of Pottsville (East of 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 12 <sup>th</sup> 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
Pine Grove Water Plant	Groundwater Wells	Portions of Pine Grove 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 Wednesday 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](http://www.scmawater.com). We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

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 2019 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.

### **Other Violations:**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 2nd and 3rd Quarter of 2019 we were required to collect four (4) samples per quarter for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s) and by error we only collected three (3) samples per quarter. This is considered a monitoring violation. Even though this situation was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations. The analysis results from the samples that were collected during the 2nd and 3rd Quarter of 2019 and analyzed for TTHMs and HAA5s were all below the associated Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Once we were notified of the missed samples, we immediately began collecting the required four (4) samples per quarter for TTHMs and HAA5s during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2019.

### **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).

### **Other Information:**

Schuylkill County Municipal Authority was chosen by the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct monitoring under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3). Beginning in January 2014, our water system completed monitoring for several unregulated contaminants specified by US EPA. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should be regulated. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. The results of this monitoring event are available upon request. We have also been selected to conduct monitoring under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4). Monitoring began in March 2018 and will continue through November 2020.

**We are proud to report that all of our water quality parameters have met or surpassed both State and Federal Requirements. In 2019, No Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or Treatment Techniques (TTs) were exceeded.**

## 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, 2019. 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), the Pinebrook System (PWS ID 3540054) and the Pine Grove Township System (PWS ID 3540062) 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						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	N	1.11	0.72-1.11	1.04	0.73-1.04	1.07	0.72-1.07	N/A	N/A	ppm	MRDL= 4	MRDLG = 4	2019	Water additive used to control microbes. Distribution disinfectant level reported as highest monthly average and range.
TTHM	N	16.4	5.8-26.5	7.3	4.8-15.9	20.7	4.6-25.2	N/A	N/A	ppb	80	N/A	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range.
HAA5	N	12.5	3.0-11.6	15.3	8.0-18.7	24.1	7.0-26.5	N/A	N/A	ppb	60	N/A	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range.
Nitrate	N	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ppm	10	10	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural
Beta Emitters*	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	pCi/l	50	0	2019	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Chemical Contaminants		Tremont Plant		Pinebrook Plant		Pine Grove Twp.								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Entry Point 100		Entry Point 102		Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
						Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range					
Chlorine	N	1.42	0.98-1.42	1.64	0.58-1.64	1.59	0.81-1.59	1.59	0.81-1.59	ppm	MRDL= 4	MRDLG = 4	2019	Water additive used to control microbes. Distribution disinfectant level reported as highest monthly average and range.
TTHM	N	13.2	13.2	ND	ND	2.98	2.98	2.98	2.98	ppb	80	N/A	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range.
HAA5	N	5.6	5.6	ND	ND	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	ppb	60	N/A	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Reported as highest annual average and range.
Nitrate	N	ND	ND	3.52	3.52	ND	ND	ND	ND	ppm	10	10	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural
Beta Emitters*	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	0.418	0.418	pCi/l	50	0	2013	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Lead & Copper		Mt. Laurel Plant		Broad Mt. Plant		Indian Run Plant		Gordon Plant						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Value	90th Percentile Value	90th Percentile Value	90th Percentile Value	Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date					
Lead (ppb)	N	Pottsville System Level Detected =3.0				ppb	AL = 15	0	2019	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		0 out of 30												
Copper (ppm)	N	Pottsville System Level Detected = 0.297				ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	2019	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												

<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>		<b>Tremont Plant</b>		<b>Pinebrook Plant</b>		<b>Pine Grove Twp.</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Value		90th Percentile Value		90th Percentile Value				Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	N	1.0		4.0		1.0				ppb	AL = 15	0	2019	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 10		0 out of 10		0 out of 5								
Copper (ppm)	N	0.562		1.28		0.75				ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	2019	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 10		1 out of 10		0 out of 5								

<b>Turbidity</b>		<b>Mt. Laurel Plant</b>		<b>Broad Mt. Plant</b>		<b>Indian Run Plant</b>		<b>Gordon Plant</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
Turbidity (ntu)	N	0.14	100%	0.19	100%	0.03	100%	N/A	N/A	NTU	0.30	0.30	2019	Soil runoff.
		TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement		TT = at least 95% of monthly samples <0.3 NTU □										

<b>Turbidity</b>		<b>Tremont Plant</b>		<b>Pinebrook Plant</b>		<b>Pine Grove Twp.</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Entry Point 100		Entry Point 102		Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
		Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range					
Turbidity (ntu)	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NTU	0.30	0.30	2019	Soil runoff.
		TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement		TT = at least 95% of monthly samples <0.3 NTU □										

<b>Total Organic Compounds</b>		<b>Mt. Laurel Plant</b>		<b>Broad Mt. Plant</b>		<b>Indian Run Plant</b>		<b>Gordon Plant</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
Raw TOC	N	1.46	0.60-2.10	1.38	0.80-1.90	1.6	1.10-2.20	N/A	N/A	ppm	TT	N/A	2019	Naturally present in the environment. Reported as highest annual average and range.
Treated TOC	N	0.88	0.50-1.20	N/A	N/A	0.83	0.70-1.10	N/A	N/A	ppm	TT	N/A	2019	

<b>Total Organic Compounds</b>		<b>Tremont Plant</b>		<b>Pinebrook Plant</b>		<b>Pine Grove Twp.</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Entry Point 100		Entry Point 102		Units	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
		Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range					
Raw TOC	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ppm	TT	N/A	2019	Naturally present in the environment. Reported as highest annual average and range.
Treated TOC	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ppm	TT	N/A	2019	

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>		<b>Mt. Laurel Plant</b>		<b>Broad Mt. Plant</b>		<b>Indian Run Plant</b>		<b>Gordon Plant</b>					
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	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	0.98	0.98-1.84	0.57	0.57-1.69	0.45	0.45-1.87	0.59	0.59-1.94	ppm	0.20	2019	Water additive used to control microbes. Reported as minimum entry point disinfectant

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual		Tremont Plant		Pinebrook Plant		Pine Grove Twp.							
						Entry Point 100		Entry Point 102					
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Lowest Level Detected	Range	Lowest Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Level Detected	Range	Units	MinRDL	Sample Date	Likely Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	N	0.55	0.55-1.86	0.49	0.49-2.18	0.40	0.4-2.20	0.24	0.24-1.80	ppm	0.20	2019	Water additive used to control microbes. Reported as minimum entry point disinfectant

**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

**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

**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.

**MINIMUM REPORTABLE LEVEL (MRL)** = THE MINIMUM REPORTABLE LEVEL DEFINED BY UCMR3.

**N/A** = NOT APPLICABLE; NOT REQUIRED.

**ND** = NOT DETECTABLE AT TESTING LIMIT.

**NTU** = NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNITS.

**PPB** = PARTS PER BILLION, OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER (MG/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.

**90TH PERCENTILE** = THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF LEAD OR COPPER IN TAP WATER THAT IS EXCEEDED BY 10 PERCENT OF THE SITES SAMPLED DURING A MONITORING PERIOD. THIS VALUE IS COMPARED TO THE LEAD AND COPPER ACTION LEVELS (AL) TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN AL HAS BEEN EXCEEDED.

**%** = PERCENT

**>** = GREATER THAN

**<** = LESS THAN