

**2012 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT  
BOROUGH OF TARENTUM PWSID #5020055**

This report is to inform you about the quality of water that we deliver to you everyday. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality of water possible, and continue to improve the water treatment process.

If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact: **Jeffrey A Adams, Supervisor Tarentum Water Plant (724) 224-9688**

We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 located at 318 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Tarentum.

Our water source is treated surface water from the Allegheny River. A boom has been installed across the beginning of the intake to help keep out any spills of contaminants that may occur upstream of our raw water source. A Source Water Assessment of our source was completed in May 2002 by the PA Department of Environment Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to: storm water and CSO runoff from developed areas adjacent to the river carrying multiple contaminants; accidental release of known or unknown contaminants from upstream industrial discharge; accidental discharge from ruptured pipelines upstream from the intake; or Cumulative release of petroleum and other pollutants from pleasure boating and barge traffic along the river and the potential for accidental spills. Overall, our source has little risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to Tarentum Borough 318 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Tarentum PA 15084 and will also be available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (keyword: "DEP source water"). Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 412-442-4000.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy inortante sobre su aqua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.* (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

**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).**

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, 2012. 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.

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 results from urban storm water 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 storm water run-off, and residential uses.

\*Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also, come from gas station, urban storm water 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 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 established 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).

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. Borough of Tarentum 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>.

Samples were collected on schedule for Total Organic Carbon in April 2012 they were not reported to the DEP on the correct date. There were no health risks to our customers.

We are pleased to inform you that by our testing table, the table shows that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. In order to maintain a dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We at Tarentum Water Plant work around the clock to provide top quality water to every household. Please help us in protecting our water sources.

**Sampling results table on opposite side.**

Definitions and Abbreviations:

**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.

**NA** – Not applicable

**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.

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

**NTU – (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)** – Measurements of the clarity, or turbidity of water.

**ppb (parts per billion)** – One part substance per billion parts water.

**ppm (parts per million)** – One part substance per million parts water

**Turbidity** – is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Units	# of Sites above AL of Total Site	Violation	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	ppb	1 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.21	ppm	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

Substance (Unit)	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected	Lowest Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.66		-	N	Runoff from fertilizer use
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	NA	25		14 - 49	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	54		21 – 80	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.3		0.26 – 0.3	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine – entry point				0.41	0.41 – 0.79	N	
Uranium (ug/l)	30	0	2.3		1.0 – 2.3	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.25		-	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth

Our certified lab recorded the second quarter TOC sample results to the state passed the due date. The quality of water was not affected by this action.

Total organic carbon	TT = 35% Removal	Quarters out of compliance none	Removal achieved 27– 38.9	Violation N	Naturally present in the environment
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Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU	0	0.16	11-02-12	N	Soil Runoff
	TT = 95% of monthly Samples < 0.3 NTU		100%	2012	N	