

2009 Consumer Confidence Report for 61802807 ALTOONA WATERWORKS

Water System Information

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact Curt Carey at (715) 839-6092.

Health Information

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).

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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Source(s) of Water

| Source id | Source | Depth (in feet) | Status |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Groundwater | 194 | Temp. out of Service as of |
| 3 | Groundwater | 195 | Active |
| 4 | Groundwater | 188 | Active |
| 5 | Groundwater | 172 | Active |
| 6 | Groundwater | 185 | Active |
| 7 | Groundwater | 245 | Active |

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact Curt Carey at (715) 839-6092

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 runoff, 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Number of Contaminants Required to be Tested

This table displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

| Contaminant Group | # of Contaminants |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Disinfection Byproducts | 2 |
| Inorganic Contaminants | 17 |
| Microbiological Contaminants | 2 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Radioactive Contaminants | 4 |
| Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides | 29 |
| Unregulated Contaminants | 4 |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | 20 |

Disinfection Byproducts

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2009) | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---------------------|-----|------|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| TTHM (ppb) | 80 | 0 | .3 | .3 | | NO | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

Inorganic Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2009) | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---------------------|-----|------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| BARIUM (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .015 | .014-.015 | 09/09/2008 | NO | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| CADMIUM (ppb) | 5 | 5 | .2 | nd- .2 | 09/09/2008 | NO | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints |
| CHROMIUM (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 1 | 1- 1 | 09/09/2008 | NO | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----|--------|--|------------|----|--|
| COPPER (ppm) | AL=1.3 | 1.3 | .4900 | 0 of 20 results were above the action level. | 10/23/2008 | NO | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| FLUORIDE (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .1 | .1- .1 | 09/09/2008 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| LEAD (ppb) | AL=15 | 0 | 1.70 | 0 of 20 results were above the action level. | 10/23/2008 | NO | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| NICKEL (ppb) | 100 | | 6.8000 | 1.7000- 6.8000 | 09/09/2008 | NO | Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products. |
| NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 4.40 | 2.80- 6.60 | | NO | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| SODIUM (ppm) | n/a | n/a | 14.00 | 4.90- 14.00 | 09/09/2008 | NO | n/a |

Radioactive Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2009) | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|-------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l) | 15 | 0 | 3.7 | 3.0-4.4 | | NO | Erosion of natural deposits |
| GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a) | n/a | n/a | 3.7 | 3.0-4.4 | | NO | Erosion of natural deposits |
| RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l) | 5 | 0 | 4.1 | 3.6-4.6 | | NO | Erosion of natural deposits |

Unregulated Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2009) | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---------------------|-----|------|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| BROMOFORM (ppb) | n/a | n/a | .26 | .26 | | NO | n/a |

Volatile Organic Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2009) | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|----------------------------|-----|------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| CARBON TETRACHLORIDE (ppb) | 5 | 0 | .5 | nd-2.1 | | NO | Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|--------|--|----|--|
| P-DICHLOROBENZEN E (ppb) | 75 | 75 | .5 | nd-1.8 | | NO | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|--------|--|----|--|

Additional Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 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 advice from your health care provider.

Monitoring and Reporting Violations

| Contaminant Group | Sample Location | Compliance Period Beginning | Compliance Period Ending Monitoring and reporting violations occur when a water system fails to collect and/or report results for State required drinking water sampling. "Sample location" refers to the distribution system, or an entry point or well number from which |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | a sample is required to be taken. |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 3 | 07/01/2009 | 09/30/2009 |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 4 | 07/01/2009 | 09/30/2009 |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 5 | 07/01/2009 | 09/30/2009 |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 6 | 07/01/2009 | 09/30/2009 |

Radioactive Contaminants that were missed include: Gross Alpha, Excl. R & U; Radium, (226 + 228); Radium-228

Definition of Terms

| Term | Definition |
|-----------|--|
| AL | Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| MCL | Maximum Contaminant Level: 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. |
| MCLG | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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. |
| MFL | million fibers per liter |
| mrem/year | millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body) |
| NTU | Nephelometric Turbidity Units |
| pCi/l | picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| ppm | parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) |
| ppb | parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) |
| ppt | parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter |
| TCR | Total Coliform Rule |
| TT | Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |