



2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Ellwood City

Public Water Supply ID# PA6370011



Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que 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 if needed.)

A Message from the Pennsylvania American Water President

Dear Valued Customer:

On behalf of all Pennsylvania American Water employees, I am pleased to report very good news about the quality of your drinking water. This annual Water Quality Report provides the results of local water testing between January and December 2017, and as you will see, we continue to supply your community with water that meets or surpasses all regulatory standards.

Water service from Pennsylvania American Water is an exceptional value. To deliver quality water to your tap, we employ a great deal of science, expertise, technology and infrastructure to bring water from the source, treat it and ensure it is clean and safe. In addition, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure reliable water service is always there when you need it.

Delivering high-quality water service also requires significant investment to replace and upgrade aging pipe, equipment and facilities. **In 2017 alone, we invested nearly \$300 million in system improvements across the Commonwealth.**

Water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and our overall quality of life. Every Pennsylvania American Water employee takes this responsibility very seriously and works hard to keep water flowing not only today but for the next generation. Please take the time to read this report and learn more about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. McIntyre
President, Pennsylvania American Water



Our Mark of Excellence

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,900 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 46 states and Ontario, Canada. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to our customers to make sure we keep their lives flowing. For more information, visit amwater.com and follow American Water on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



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Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.4 million people.

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2017. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As regulations and drinking water standards become more stringent, it is our commitment to you to ensure compliance with these standards in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, while maintaining our objective of providing quality drinking water at an affordable price. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please feel free to call our Customer Service Department at 1-800-565-7292.

Source Water Information

The Slippery Rock Creek is the sole source of supply for the Ellwood City service area. Pennsylvania American Water maintains a treatment facility on the Slippery Rock Creek capable of processing a maximum of 5.2 million gallons of water per day (MGD). The water supply is distributed for residential, commercial, and industrial use.

Protecting Your Water Source

In 2003, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and PAW completed an assessment for the drinking water source for the Ellwood City system. The Assessment has found that the Slippery Rock Creek is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: transportation corridors, auto repair shops, truck and bus terminals, on-lot waste disposal, wastewater treatment plants, landfills and runoff from non-point sources such as residential developments, farms and golf courses. Overall, the Slippery Rock Creek has a moderate risk of contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the DEP *Source Water Assessment & Protection* webpage by following the link below.

[Ellwood City Source Water Assessment link](#)

A copy of the complete Source Water Assessment may be viewed by calling the local office of the Pennsylvania DEP at (724) 656-3160. PAW encourages you to take an active part in protecting your water supply by participating in activities as they occur in your local area.

Other Water Quality Parameters of Interest

Is there lead in your water?

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. Pennsylvania American Water 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: [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web Page on Lead](#)

Does your water contain nitrates?

PAW's normal range of nitrate levels is well below the MCL of 10 ppm. Nitrates enter the water supply from fertilizers used on farms and natural erosion of deposits in the watershed. Levels above 10 ppm are a health risk for infants under six months of age and can cause blue baby syndrome. Check with your physician if you have questions.

How hard is your water?

Hardness is a measure of the concentration of two minerals naturally present in water – calcium and magnesium – and will vary seasonally. High hardness levels cause soap not to foam as easily as it would at lower levels and may cause spotting on glassware. The hardness of the water presents no health issues. The hardness levels at the Ellwood City Treatment Facility range from 98 ppm to 300 ppm, or 6 to 17 grains per gallon of water.



How much sodium is in your water?

The sodium level is approximately 20 ppm.

What is the pH (acidity) range of your water?

Water in the distribution system averages 7.4 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral, neither acidic nor basic.

Is there fluoride in your water?

PAW does not add fluoride to the water in the Ellwood City system.

Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Program

In 2000, the Ellwood City System was awarded the prestigious Director's Award – Treatment under the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Program. The program is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and other water related organizations. The award honors utilities for achieving operational excellence by voluntarily optimizing their treatment facility operations and adopting more stringent performance goals than those required by federal and state drinking water standards. We are proud to report that the Ellwood City System has met the voluntary goals of the program for 17 continuous years.



How to Contact Us

Additional copies of this report can be printed directly from this site at www.amwater.com/ccr/ellwoodcity.pdf. Additional information can be gathered by calling our Customer Service Department at 1-800-565-7292 or by viewing the following information on the Internet:

[Pennsylvania American Water Web Page](#)

[Pa. Department of Environmental Protection Web Page](#)

[United States Environmental Protection Agency Web Page](#)

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web Page](#)

[American Water Works Association Web Page](#)

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Pennsylvania American Water's treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern and the processes are controlled to provide maximum protection against microbial and viral pathogens which could be naturally present in surface and groundwater. 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 system disorders, some elderly, and infants may 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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.



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Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. If the organism was detected, current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. Based on the results of the first round of *Cryptosporidium* monitoring, no additional treatment was required by the US EPA regulations. The Ellwood City System began a second round of source monitoring from the Slippery Rock Creek in October of 2016. In this monthly sampling, we have detected zero to 1.765 oocyst/L *Cryptosporidium*. This sampling will continue through 2018.

How to Read This Table

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2017 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (goal may be set lower than what is allowed). **Highest Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Non-regulated substances are measured, but maximum allowed contaminant levels have not been established by the government. These contaminants are shown for your information.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of 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 contamination.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.

SS: Single sample



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

%: means percent.

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 level (AL) to determine whether an AL has been exceeded.

Water Quality Statement

We are pleased to report that during calendar year 2017, the water delivered to your home or business complied with all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2017. The Pennsylvania DEP allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of the contaminants does not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania DEP, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of each substance was present in the water.

Water Quality Results

Turbidity – A Measure of the Clarity of the Water at the Treatment Facility

Plant	Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Highest Single Measurement	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Ellwood City Plant	Turbidity (NTU) ¹	2017	NA	TT	0.10	Yes	Soil runoff

¹ All turbidity readings were below the treatment technique requirement of 0.3 NTU in 95% of all samples taken for compliance on a monthly basis. Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness of the water and is monitored to indicate the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Regulated Substances - Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility

Substance (units)	Sample Date	Minimum Disinfectant Residual Required	Lowest Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2017	0.2	0.5	0.5 – 2.9	Yes	Water additive to control microbes

Regulated Substances - Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Highest Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Nitrate (ppm)	2017	10	10	0.53	SS	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Atrazine (ppb)	2017	3	3	0.3	ND – 0.3	Yes	Runoff from herbicide use on row crops.



Total Organic Carbon Removal – Measured within the Treatment Facility

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	TT	Percent Removal Required	Range of Percent Removal Achieved	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (% removal) ²	2017	Meet EPA Removal Requirements	35 – 45	46 – 68	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

² Adequate removal of TOC may be necessary to control the unwanted formation of chlorinated by-products. Naturally occurring organic matter present in the source water can react with the disinfectants used at the treatment facility to form these by-products.

Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results – Measured in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile	Number of Samples Above the Action Level	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2016	15	0	30	3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2016	1.3	1.3	30	0.43	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Other Regulated Compounds – Measured in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Average Result ³	Range Low – High ⁴	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ⁵ (ppb)	2017	NA	80	39	12 – 52	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ⁵ (ppb)	2017	NA	60	27	4 – 36	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chromium (ppb)	2015	100	100	0.3	0.3	Yes	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.

³ Highest running annual average for individual sampling points.

⁴ Range represents sampling at individual sample points.

⁵ Due to a change in sampling requirements, we failed to collect TTHM and HAA5 samples at 2 required sites in the 4th Quarter 2017 which resulted in a monitoring violation. We have updated our monitoring plan and these sites have been properly monitored since then.

Disinfectant Level - Measured in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest Level Detected	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm) ⁶	2017	4	4	1.97	1.40 – 1.97	Yes	Water additive to control microbes

⁶ Range represents the calculated monthly average of the results for the routine individual samples.

