



2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Connellsville
PWS ID: PA5260022



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 share some very good news about the quality of your drinking water. As you read through our Annual Water Quality Report based on testing results between January and December 2015, you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards. **Better yet, the price you pay for this high-quality water service remains about one penny per gallon.**

This is an exceptional value when you consider the science, expertise, equipment and technology that go into bringing water from the source and treating it, plus the miles and miles of pipe to deliver clean water to your tap. What's more, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it.

Delivering reliable, high-quality water service also requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging infrastructure. **In 2015 alone, we invested approximately \$270 million in system improvements across the commonwealth.**

Water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and our overall quality of life. This is a responsibility that Pennsylvania American Water employees take very seriously to ensure that quality water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future. Please take the time to review this report with its details about the source and quality of your drinking water. We hope you agree that your water service is worth every penny.

Sincerely,

Kathy L. Pape
President, Pennsylvania American Water



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Our Mark of Excellence

American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. Marking its 130th anniversary this year, the company employs 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.3 million people.

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2015. 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

Pennsylvania American Water (PAW) purchases its water from distribution interconnections with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) and North Fayette County Municipal Authority (NFCMA). The Youghiogheny River serves as the MAWC and NFCMA supply. The water supply is used for residential, commercial and industrial use.

A *Source Water Assessment* of the Youghiogheny River, which supplies water to MAWC and NFCMA was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that these Youghiogheny River intakes are potentially most susceptible to roads, bridges, railroads, auto repair, combined sewer outfalls, wildcat sewers, malfunctioning septic systems, utility substations and runoff from non-point sources such as residential developments and mining areas. Overall, the Youghiogheny River Watershed has a moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the assessment for both MAWC and NFCMA are available on the Pa. DEP web page at the following links:

[Westmoreland County Municipal Authority Source Water Assessment Link](#)

[North Fayette County Municipal Authority Source Water Assessment Link](#)

The Indian Creek Valley Water Authority (ICVWA) distribution interconnection supplies a small portion of Connellsville along Springfield Pike during emergency situations. Indian Creek Valley Water Authority is supplied by 4 sources: Pritts Spring, Grimm Spring, Neals Run Well, and the Mill Run Reservoir surface water treatment plant. The two springs and the well are the primary sources. The Mill Run Reservoir treatment plant is only used as an intermittent source.

A *Source Water Assessment* of the ICVWA sources was completed in 2002 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). Overall, the report has found that our assessment area has little to moderate risk of significant contamination. Their sources are potentially most susceptible to accidental spills and storm water runoff along transportation corridors near the streams leading to their intakes. Summary reports of the assessment are available on the Pa. DEP web page at the following link:

[Indian Creek Valley Water Authority Source Water Assessment Link](#)

Copies of the complete reports are available for review at the Pennsylvania DEP Southwest Regional Office by calling 412-442-4000 to schedule an appointment.



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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 the link below.

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web Page on Lead](#)

Does your water contain nitrates?

PAW's normal range of nitrate levels is below the MCL of 10 ppm. Nitrate enters 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. High hardness levels cause soap not to foam as easily as it would at lower levels. Hardness levels range from 37 ppm to 67 ppm, or 2 to 4 grains per gallon of water.

How much sodium is in your water?

The sodium level is approximately 12 ppm.

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

Water in the distribution system averages 7.7 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral, neither acidic nor basic.

Is there fluoride in your water?

NFCMA adds fluoride to a level of near 0.70 ppm to assist in the prevention of dental cavities. MAWC and ICVWA do not add fluoride.

Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of Pennsylvania American Water and therefore do not receive this report directly.

How to Contact Us

Additional copies of this report can be printed directly from this site: www.amwater.com/ccr/connellsville.pdf

Questions can be presented to our Customer Service Department at 1-800-565-7292. Additional information can be gathered by viewing the following links 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations also 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 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.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

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 (800) 426-4791.

How to Read This Table

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2015 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of each substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (goal may be set lower than what is allowed). **Maximum 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.

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.

NA: Not applicable

ND: No detection

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



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

ppb or $\mu\text{g/L}$ (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.

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

SS: Single sample

TT (Treatment Technique): 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 level (AL) to determine whether an AL has been exceeded.

%: means percent.

>: means greater than

<: means less than



Water Quality Statement

We are pleased to report that during the past year, 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 2015. 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 Facilities

Plant	Substance (units)	Year Sampled	TT	MCLG	Highest Single Measurement	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC)	Turbidity (NTU)	2015	95% of all samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU	NA	0.3	Yes	Soil runoff
North Fayette County Municipal Authority (NFCMA)			95% of all samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU	NA	0.38	Yes	Soil runoff
Plant/Source	Substance (units)	Year Sampled	TT	MCLG	Highest Single Measurement	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Indian Creek Valley Water Authority (ICVWA)/ Pritts Spring	Turbidity (NTU)	2015	95% of all samples must be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU	NA	0.41	Yes	Soil runoff
Indian Creek Valley Water Authority (ICVWA)/ Grimm Spring			95% of all samples must be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU	NA	0.44	Yes	Soil runoff
Indian Creek Valley Water Authority (ICVWA)/ Mill Run Reservoir			95% of all samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU	NA	0.20	Yes	Soil runoff



Regulated Substances - Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facilities

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Maximum Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Nitrates as Nitrogen (ppm)	2015	10	10	0.80	SS (MAWC)	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
				0.63	SS (NFCMA)		
				0.69	0.07 – 0.69 (ICVWA)		
Fluoride (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.85	0.53 – 0.85 (NFCMA)	Yes	Added to water to promote healthy teeth

Bacterial Results - Measured in the Distribution System

Substance	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Number of Positive Samples per Month	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	2015	No more than 1 positive sample per month	Zero bacteria	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Disinfectant Residual - Measured in the Connellsville Distribution System

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Amount Detected	Range ¹ Low - High	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2015	4	4	1.78	0.77 – 1.78	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

¹Range represents the calculated monthly average of the results for the routine individual samples.



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

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Samples	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0	30	1	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	1.3	30	0.089	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Other Regulated Compounds - Measured in the Connellsville Distribution System

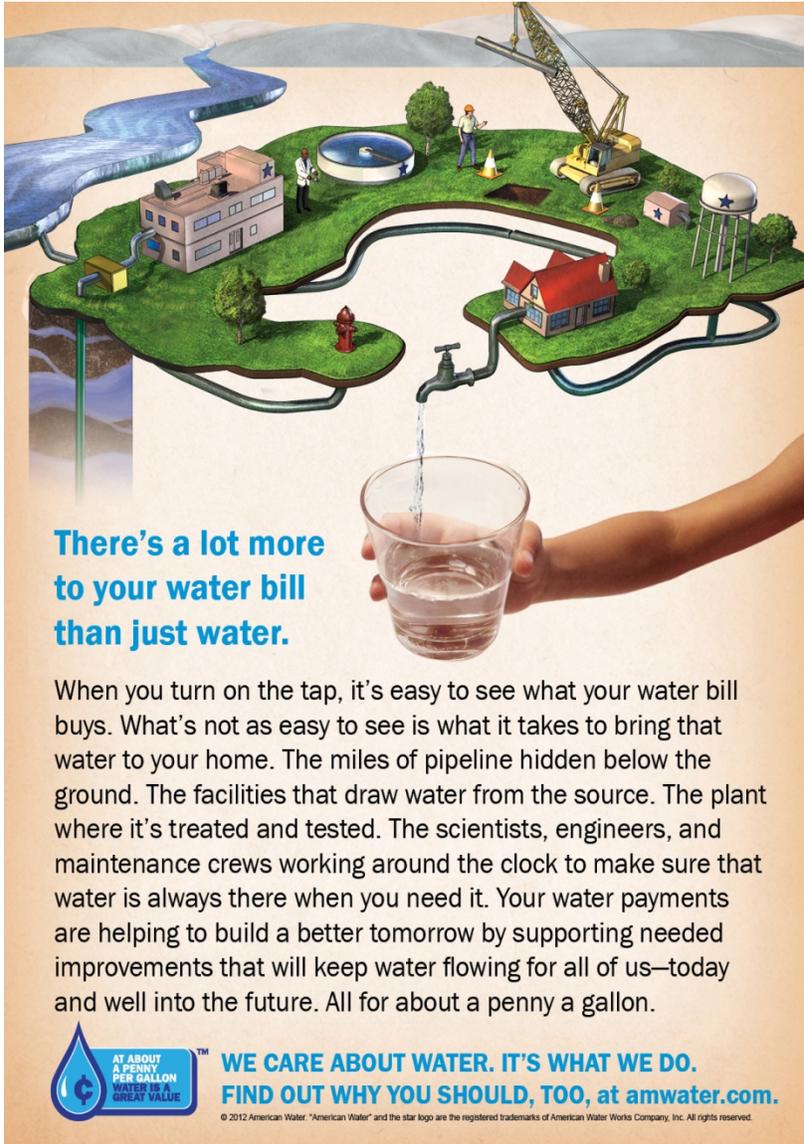
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Results ²	Range ³ Low - High	Compliance Achieved?	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb)	2015	80	NA	46	25 - 63	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	2015	60	NA	30	14 - 39	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chromium ⁴ (ppb)	2013	100	NA	0.27	ND – 0.40	Yes	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; chromium-3 or -6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation. The amount measured when analyzing for "total chromium" is the sum of chromium in all of its valence states.

² Highest annual running average for individual sample points.

³ Range represents sampling at individual sample points.

⁴ Monitored under UCMR3 in 2013, Total Chromium itself is a regulated substance.





**There's a lot more
to your water bill
than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future. All for about a penny a gallon.



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FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD, TOO, at amwater.com.**

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