

# SPRING TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

2008 Calendar Year Data

PWS ID 4140118

Prepared June 2009

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We are pleased to present to you this year's **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**. (*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*) This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services that we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the quality of your water and to protect our water resources. Our primary water supply source during 2008 was the Carles Well located near the end of Mulbarger Lane. The Axeman Spring and the Bruss Spring/Lonebarger Well have been disconnected from the system as required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

### MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The Spring Township Water Authority routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to an Annual Monitoring Calendar provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The table on the following page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. **We are pleased to report that our drinking water regularly meets all federal and state requirements.**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA has prescribed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. MCLs 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.

The following table compares those contaminants found to be present in the system's water with the MCL for that substance. If the contaminant exceeds the MCL at any time, a violation is said to occur. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, but all are below acceptable levels.

### CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family or business with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

If you have questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, please contact Certified Water Operator Greg Yearick at (814) 355-7543 Ext. 5. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (unless publicly posted otherwise) at 7:00 p.m. at the Spring Township Municipal Building located at the intersection of Blanchard Street and Irish Hollow Road. Our mailing address is 1309 Blanchard Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Thank you!

The Spring Township Water Authority

**2008 Water Quality Report  
Spring Township Water Authority**

Contaminant Name	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Treatment Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Detected by STWA	Range of Detection by STWA	Sources of Contaminants in Drinking Water	Violations By STWA
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium (2006 data)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.019 ppm	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from metal refineries. Discharge of drilling wastes.	None
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	2.34 ppm	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage.	None
<b>Lead and Copper Rule</b>						
Lead (2007 data)	15 ppb Action Level	0 ppb	1.2 ppb 90th percentile	0 – 2.6 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.	None
Copper (2007 data)	1.3 ppm Action Level	1.3 ppm	0.062 ppm 90th percentile	0.23– 0.67 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.	None
<b>Disinfection Byproducts (DPBs), Byproduct Precursors and Disinfectant Residuals</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (2007 data)	80 ppb	N/A	2.78 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	None
Chlorine	MRDL = 4 ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	2.0 ppm	1.0 – 2.0 ppm	Drinking water additive used to control microbes.	None

**Important Notes:**

- Only those contaminants found in the Authority's treated water are listed above, and all are below the allowable levels.
- More than fifty other contaminants, including total and fecal coliform, are regulated and routinely tested but are not presented because the contaminants were below the detectable levels.
- The DEP allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year and some data may be more than one year old. Data prior to 2005 represent the Axeman Spring and Bruss Spring/Lonebarger Well Sources.

**Definitions:**

**(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals as feasible using best available 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

**(MRDLG) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**– The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. (MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.)

**Action Level** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**ppm** – One part per million. Comparable to one milligram per liter (1 mg/L). Corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**ppb** – One part per billion. Comparable to one microgram per liter (1 ug/L). Corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**pCi/L** – Picocuries per liter, a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**N/A** – Not applicable.

The Authority had one monitoring/reporting violation in 2008 whereby their certified laboratory, Fairway Labs of Altoona, failed to collect a sample for volatile organic contaminants by the regulatory deadline. The laboratory collected the follow-up sample on February 12, 2009 and the required sample results were acceptable showing no detections.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

All sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled), which include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells, are subject to potential contaminants that are naturally occurring or man made. 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 human activity.

Those contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbiological Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 refining.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to assure 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.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose 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** at 1-800-426-4791 or by referring to their website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

**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 from their health care providers about drinking water. 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).

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

**Spring Township Water Authority  
1309 Blanchard Street  
Bellefonte, PA 16823**