

**2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality  
Report For  
The Borough of East Stroudsburg Water  
Department  
(PWSID # 2450023)**

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

A Source Water Assessment of the surface water reservoir system, which supplies water to the East Stroudsburg Borough Water Department Filtration Plant, was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that the **Borough's surface water reservoir system** is potentially most susceptible to individual point source activities such as the operation of an existing pistol range, and for non-point source activities such as fuel oil storage tanks, household cleaning supplies, highway spills, highway salt applications, lawn care supplies, on-lot sewage disposal, swimming pools, wells (abandoned or active) and boreholes (abandoned or active). The **Borough's groundwater system** is potentially most susceptible to individual point source activities such as auto repair shops, auto repair stores, underground petroleum storage

tanks and repair shops and for non-point source activities such as fuel oil storage tanks, household cleaning supplies, highway spills, highway salt applications, lawn care supplies, on-lot sewage disposal, swimming pools, wells (abandoned or active) and boreholes (abandoned or active). Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to Andrew Augustine, PA DEP Northeast Regional Office, 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 and will be available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (Keyword: "DEP source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 830-3103.

Our water is drawn from two reservoirs and four groundwater wells. The reservoir water is treated at the water filtration plant, and water drawn from the wells is treated on-site and used to supplement the water supply.

This report presents a summary of our water quality and what it means. 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 Borough Council Committee meetings. They are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.

The Borough of East Stroudsburg Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The attached table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2016. All

drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. As such, some of our data, though representative, are more than 1 year old.

In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers

treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** the level of a 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.

**Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

## What do these results mean?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

MCL's 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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available

from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Lead:** 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. East Stroudsburg Borough 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>.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development.

Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**Arsenic:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause

cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC):** TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) and HAAs (Haloacetic Acids). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Trihalomethanes:** Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

The local running annual average standard for TTHMs was exceeded for two quarters at one testing location in 2016. The average for these two quarters was exceeded due to the carryover of a single high reading in 2015. All individual samples in 2016 were well below the MCL.

**Gross Alpha:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Last year sample results for Chlorine taken in July 2015 were submitted late to the PADEP. At no time was the water unsafe to drink. We are reviewing our procedures to ensure that this

paperwork will be submitted in a timely manner in the future.

At the East Stroudsburg Water Department we work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. You can assist us in our efforts by informing the Borough office of any suspected leaks in the water system or potential sources of contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Borough Manager at 570-421-8300 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.