

**2020 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY**  
**PWSID #3130009**

***Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo 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, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

**WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact, the Lehighon Water Authority office at 610-377-1912. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, Lehighon, Pennsylvania.

**SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water source is surface water from Long Run Reservoir and Pine Run, located in Franklin Township. We also have a Pumping Station at the Lehigh River in the Packerton area as a back up source of water. Raw water from these sources is treated at the Lehighon Water Authority Filtration Plant before being transmitted and distributed to water system customers.

The Department of Environmental Protection Resources (DEP) completed an assessment of our source water in January 2004 and has reported that our raw water is most susceptible to a repair shop, an underground petroleum storage tank and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. If any spills take place on the PA Turnpike, we are notified immediately by the Carbon County Communication Center, so that we may take all precautions necessary to protect our water source. You can get a summary of our assessment on the Source Water Assessment & Protection web page at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>. A full copy is available for review in the Lehighon Water Authority office in the Municipal Building.

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).

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION & WATER CONSERVATION TIPS:**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- *Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.*
- *Pick up after your pets.*
- *If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.*
- *Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.*

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- *Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.*
- *Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.*
- *Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.*

- *Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.*
- *Water plants only when necessary.*
- *Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.*
- *Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!*

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **MONITORING YOUR WATER:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the State Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

## **DEFINITIONS, TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS:**

In the following 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:

**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 (ug/l)** - 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)**- Is a measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of a radioactive contaminant.

**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 (MCL)** - This 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)**- This is the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in the 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - unit of measurement for the cloudiness of water.

**Mrem/year** – millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

## Microbiological Contaminants:

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Typical Source
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	.25	.01-.28	05/10/2020	Y	soil runoff
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		100%	n/a	n/a		

## Inorganic Contaminants:

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	.015	.015	ppm	11/11/2020	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10 <sup>1</sup>	0 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	ppb	11/11/2020	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

## Disinfectants:

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60	N/A	46.0	15.1-46.0	ppb	11/11/2020	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	N/A	42.4	13-42.4	ppb	08/11/2020	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	4	4	.88	.88-1.58	ppm	07/01/2020	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	N/A	1.1	0-.1.1	ppm	08/05/2020	N	Naturally present in the environment

## Lead and Copper Rule:

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0	ppb	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1300	1300	187	ppb	0 out of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

**Footnotes:** SS = Single Sample Taken

TT- Treatment Technique (For Turbidity, systems must report the highest single measurement and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the requirements specified for that technology).

NA= Not Applicable

NP = No Bacteria Present.

## WATER SUPPLY/SOURCE INFORMATION

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. Lehigh Water Authority 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>.

### **OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

Late reporting violations in which laboratory failed to file radiological sample results by the required December 31, 2020 deadline. The samples were collected 12/21/2020 but not reported until 1/20/2021.

### **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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*

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).

### **INFORMATION ABOUT 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. Lehighon Water Authority 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 thirty (30) seconds to two (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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Lehighon Water Authority works around the clock to provide high quality water to every tap. We ask that all customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

### **EMERGENCY CALL SYSTEM—CUSTOMER PHONE NUMBERS:**

*Please contact the Water Authority if you did not provide an emergency phone number or if your number has changed, so that we may contact you with any emergencies or other water issues.*

**Website:** [lehighonwater.com](http://lehighonwater.com)

**Like us on Facebook:** [Lehighon Water Authority](#)