

# 2012 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

## SCHWENKSVILLE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

298 MAIN STREET SCHWENKSVILLE PA 19473

PWSID#: 1460042

*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:**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about quality of water and services that Schwenksville Borough Authority, a locally managed municipal authority, delivers to you everyday. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the effort we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

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 Mr. Mike Sullivan at 610-287-7772. 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, at the Dr. M. Donald Markley Building, 298 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA.

### **SOURCES OF WATER:**

Our water source is 5 municipal wells located throughout Schwenksville Borough and Lower Frederick Township, and interconnection with Aqua PA. And an emergency Interconnection with the North Penn Water Authority.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to volatile organic compounds. Schwenksville's wells were determined to be most susceptible to contamination from transportation corridors and agricultural activities ("A" ratings). Potential pollutants used in residential areas and at auto repair shops also pose a high threat to these wells ("B" ratings). The other potential contaminants in this protection area received "C" and "E" protection ratings. Although these potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) have lower protection priorities, the cumulative effect of the PSOCs on the system's wells should be taken into consideration.

Overall, our sources have a high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Source Water Assessment & Protection* web page:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/> .

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies, and PA DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PA DEP Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 484-250-5900.

**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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).**

## 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 from January 1 to December 31, 2012. 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 *Safe Drinking Water Act*. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - 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 (MCLG)** - 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 contaminants.

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

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

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

Test Results 2012 for Schwenksville Borough Authority								
Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.28	0.95-1.28	ppm	2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Arsenic	10	0	8.2	3.1-8.2	ppb	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Barium	2	2	0.0503	0.048-0.0503	ppm	2012	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	400	400	0.023	0.023-0.049	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from chemical factories.
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	6	0	0.187	0.097-0.187	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Selenium	50	50	2.5	1.6-2.5	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

**Chemical Contaminants (CONTINUED)**

Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contaminant
Thallium	2	0.5	0.14	.04-.14	ppb	2012	N	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories.
Nitrate	10	10	1.23	0.678-1.23	ppm	2012	N	Runoff from fertilizer use: erosion of natural deposits
1,1 Dichloroethylene	7	7	0.86	n/a	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
CIS,1,2 Dichloroethylene	70	70	0.52	n/a	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
TTHM-Total trihalomethanes	80	n/a	6.88	3.32-6.88	ppb	2012	N	By product of drinking water chlorination
1,1-Dichloroethane	n/a	n/a	0.00068	0.00068	mg/l	2012	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Gross Alpha (Alpha Emitters)	15	0	16.1	5.19-16.1	pCi/L	2012	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	5	0	0.698	0.4746-0.698	pCi/L	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	20	0	16.654	3.534-16.654	pCi/L	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (Five)	60	n/a	2.076	0.864 - 2.076	ppb	2011*	N	By product of drinking water disinfection
Xylenes Total	10	10	5.38	0 -10.76	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
o-Xylenes	10	n/a	3.59	0-3.59	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	0	0	0.79-0.85	ppb	2010*	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene	700	700	1.42	0-1.42	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Chromium	100	100	2.3	1.6-2.3	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	n/a	n/a	1.8	0.73-1.8	ppb	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits

**Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Units	Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	0.2	0.70	0.7-2.38	ppm	2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes

<i>Lead and Copper</i>								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	# of Sites Above AL of Total	Units	Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contaminant
Lead	15	0	0.97	0	ppb	2010	N	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.309	0	ppm	2010	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

<i>Microbial</i>					
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: More than 1 positive monthly sample For systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month: 5% of monthly samples are positive.	0	1	Y	Naturally present in the environment.

Footnotes:

a) 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, though representative, is more than one year old.

b) 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.

c) The Lead and Copper Contaminants listed in this report were taken in 2010. They are required every three years.

**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

Schwenksville Borough Authority failed to monitor for Volatile Organic Compounds in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012. Please see the following public notification for further information.

**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 stormwater run-off, 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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 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.

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. Our water systems are designed and operated to deliver water to our customers' plumbing system that complies with state and federal drinking water standards. This water is disinfected using chlorine, but it is not necessarily sterile. Customers' plumbing, including treatment devices, might remove, introduce or increase contaminants in tap water. All customers should properly operate and maintain their internal plumbing systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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. Schwenksville Borough 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **SCHWENKSVILLE BOROUGH AUTHORITY 2012 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for The Schwenksville Borough Authority

Our water system violated drinking water standards in 2012. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2012 we did not monitor or test for Volatile Organic Compounds and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for VOC's and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
VOC's	1 sample every Quarter	0	September 2012	November 2012

### What happened? What was done?

VOC samples were required quarterly but were not completed on time. The required samples have been collected and have been analyzed and all results were acceptable and well below Safe Drinking Water Standards. Previous sample results as well as subsequent results indicated levels below the maximum contaminant levels and therefore met DEP and EPA drinking water standards. Our state certified operators did not perform the test in a timely fashion resulting in the reporting violation. We have instituted a system to confirm all samples are collected and analyzed as requested to assure that all Local, State and Federal Requirements are being met.

For more information, please contact the Schwenksville Borough Authority office at [610-287-7772](tel:610-287-7772).

This notice is being sent to you by [The Schwenksville Borough Authority](#).

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<sup>1</sup>VOCs, also known as volatile organic compounds, are tested by collecting one sample and testing that sample for all the VOCs. VOCs are commonly used in industrial and manufacturing processes. VOCs include benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, cis-dichloroethylene, trans-dichloroethylene, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, ethylbenzene, styrene, tetrachloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, vinyl chloride, and xylene.