

# PERKASIE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

June 2013

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Produced for our Perkasio Borough, East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township and Hilltown Township customers



### Perkasie Regional Authority Stewardship of Water Resources Mission Statement:

Dedicated to providing a water supply of the highest quality to it's customers and protecting the water resources in the Borough of Perkasio and East Rockhill Township

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report which includes data for the year 2012. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Perkasie Regional Authority (Public Water Supplier ID #1090046) is committed to ensuring clean and safe drinking water for every customer. We work around the clock to provide the highest quality water at the most reasonable cost possible to every tap every day.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

If you have any questions concerning this report or your Water Authority, please contact us by phone at 215-257-3654, via email at [info@perkasioauthority.org](mailto:info@perkasioauthority.org) or by attending one of our regularly scheduled meetings normally held on the first Monday & third Tuesday of each month at the Authority office located at 306 N. 5th St. at 7:00p.m.

### Lawn Watering Facts/Tips

- Water use can range from seven (7) gallons per square foot of yard up to forty (40) gallons
- When watering beds and pots, use a slow drip hose that will make sure the water gets into the ground
- Never water during the day and never use oscillating water sprinklers – which allow over half of the water to evaporate
- Always use native plants so watering does not have to be done on a regular basis



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# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Perkasie Regional Authority

PWSID# 1090046

### 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 Perkasie Regional Authority at 215-257-3654. 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 first Monday and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Perkasie Regional Authority Office, 306 N. Fifth St., Perkasie, PA 18944.

### Sources of Water

Our water source is comprised of several municipal wells in the Borough of Perkasie as well as East Rockhill Township. A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed in 2005 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment has found that our sources have a high sensitivity because of detection of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) and the presence of naturally occurring arsenic. However, they are potentially most susceptible to contamination from transportation corridors and agricultural activities. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. For a copy of the complete Assessment, please contact our office.

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/CEC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections 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 table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012. The State allow 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.



## IMPORTANT HEALTH ADVISORY

There are some people who may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Examples of those who are at higher risk are:

- **People with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders**
- **Some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections**
- **Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy**
- **Persons who have undergone organ transplants**

Anyone with these risk factors 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Learn more by visiting EPA's website:  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

### SOURCES OF CONTAMINANTS:

PRA has met or exceeded all standards set for quality and safety. However, all sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination either naturally occurring or man made.

Contaminants that may be present in ground 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 by-products of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

During 2012, samples were tested at QC Labs, Inc., Southampton, PA (215)355-3900 and Benchmark Analytics, Inc., Center Valley, PA 18034 (610)974-8100

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More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### Ensuring Quality Drinking Water

The use of ground water requires very little source water treatment. The water recharging the underground water storage aquifers is filtered through the earth and rocks as it makes its way down to the underground storage area. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow is generally "soft" water. As it filters through the ground, it picks up minerals such as calcium and magnesium which changes it to "hard" water. Generally, the most noticeable draw back to "hard" water is less suds in your washer or while you shampoo and the calcium (white crystals) build-up in your hot water tanks. Therefore, the only treatment added to the water is **chlorine** for disinfecting and a food grade **polyphosphate** called Aqua Mag to control scaling and corrosion. We also filter a portion of the water at Wells number 10 & 11 through a ferric oxide media (iron) to reduce the arsenic level below the Drinking Water Standard of 10 ppb.

## 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 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.

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

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

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

## Detected Sample Results

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Arsenic	10	0	10.6	2.8 to 10.6	ppb	10/09/12 12/11/12	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2	2	0.110	.00590 to .110	ppm	10/09/12	N	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	5.0	0.63 to 5.0	ppb	10/09/12	N	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

**Arsenic:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain 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. The standard is determined by a running annual average. Our average for the year was 8.0 ppb.

## Detected Sample Results (Continued)

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Uranium	30	0	4.015	3.581 to 4.015	pCu/L	03/14/2012 06/12/2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226&228)	5	0	1.13	.224 to 1.13	pCi/L	09/11/2012 09/11/2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Emitters	15	0	2.85	2.85	pCi/L	03/13/2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	80	n/a	30.3	30.3	ppb	08/27/2012	N	By-product of water chlorination
HAA Haloacetic Acids	60	n/a	6.19	6.19	ppb	08/27/2012	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	.97	.710 to .970	ppm	December 2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites above AL of Total Sites	Sample Date	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	0.00168	ppb	0 out of 30	06/08/2010	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.377	ppm	0 out of 30	06/08/2010	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

### Lead in Drinking 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. Perkasio Regional 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>."

## Educational Information

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 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. 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).



# Construction Updates

## Current, Completed and Up-Coming Projects

The construction of the water and sewer line from 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Sellersville to just north of Ridge Road in West Rockhill has been completed. The sewer will provide service from Yocum along the Old Route 309 and along Ridge Road from the Regional Police building to Old Route 309. Virtually all of the existing properties have failing sewer systems or are on holding tanks. The project will also provide public water and fire protection to the area.

Perkasie Regional Authority, in conjunction with the Borough of Perkasie, will be replacing a 1913 sewer main in 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Vine and Race Streets, as well as a 1911 water main in the same street.

We will also be upgrading our 8 inch water main in Spruce Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. We are reviewing options regarding this main as to whether we will replace the line or rehabilitate it in place.

We will also replace the sewer line from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Please Note:** Once the utilities are completed, the Borough of Perkasie will be re-paving both streets. In addition, check out our website or follow us on Twitter or Facebook for updates!



## Customer Alerts!

### Changes to How You Receive Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Under State and Federal law, the Authority is required to provide each and every customer with this report. This includes each and every apartment building, school, home, etc. We are also required to post it on the internet as well as in the library and municipal offices. The printing and mailing of these reports is a very expensive process, costing thousands of dollars which has to be passed on to our customers. Within the last two (2) months, the EPA has revised the requirements on delivery of these reports. We now must notify you that the report is online and provide you a link to go directly to the report. You can also call and request a report be sent to you. As stated above, the reports will also be available at your municipal office or the Perkasie library. In addition, PRA will be mailing our annual Flushing Notice post cards that will indicate that the 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available online.

### In Case You Didn't Know...



Fats, oils and greases clog up sewer lines and cause significant blockages resulting in costly sewer backups for both customers and the Authority. You can help by keeping fats, oils and greases out of our sewer lines by not pouring grease down the sink drain, garbage disposal or toilet. Instead, let it cool and then pour it into a disposable container. After making sure material is completely cool, then dispose of the container in your garbage can.

**Address**

306 North 5th Street  
PO Box 159  
Perkasie, PA 18944-0159

**Phone**

215-257-3654

In an Emergency, we can be contacted 24 hours a day at the above number

**Email**

[info@perkasieauthority.org](mailto:info@perkasieauthority.org)

**Please visit our website at  
[www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org)**

**Meetings Schedule**

Perkasie Regional Authority meets at 306 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Perkasie, PA at 7:00 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

Please visit our website at  
[www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org)  
for a list of all meeting dates

Meetings are open to the public for questions or concerns.

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## Congratulations to Larry Gular!

Perkasie Borough Council re-appointed Mr. Larry Gular to the Board in January 2013. Mr. Gular has been a Board Member since July 2006 to fill a vacancy and then he was re-appointed to a five (5) year term in January 2008 and again in January 2013 with that term expiring at the end of 2017. We welcome Mr. Gular's extensive experience and dedication to our community and look forward to our continued relationship.

In addition, on a vote by fellow Board members, Mr. Gular was re-appointed to Chairman of the Board for the year 2013.

Board members who serve on Perkasie Regional Authority's Board are **volunteers** from the community to which they serve and are not paid.