JUNE 2010

Perkasie Borough Authority
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

FOR OUR CUSTOMERS IN PERKASIE BORO, E. ROCKHILL TWP, HILLTOWN TWP & W. ROCKHILL TWP

PERKASIE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

STEWARDSHIP
OF WATER RESOURCES

MISSION STATEMENT:

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A WATER SUPPLY OF HIGHEST QUALITY TO ITS CUSTOMERS AND PROTECTING THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE BOROUGH OF PERKASIE AND EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su aqua 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.

UPDATES

We have worked hard to update our webpage and make it more user friendly. Please visit www.perkasieauthority.org for updated information about rates, projects, and other news.

As you may have heard, we just recently started accepting ACH payments and recurring credit card payments. If you are interested in either of these, please contact the office.

Perkasie Borough Authority
306 N. 5th St.
PO Box 159
Perkasie, PA 18944-0159
215-257-3654 Fax 215-257-5590
www.perkasieauthority.org

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report which includes data for the year 2009. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Perkasie Borough 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.

If you have any questions concerning this report or your Water Authority, please contact us by phone at 215-257-3654, via email @ www.perkasieauthority.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. ♦

What's Inside

2009 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PERKASIE BOROUGH 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 Borough 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 Borough Authority Office, 306 N. Fifth St., Perkasie, PA 18944.

SOURCE(S) 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. For a copy of the complete assessment, please contact us.

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 tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009. 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.

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:

- **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 for infections.**

These people should seek advise 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

SOURCES OF CONTAMINANTS:

PBA 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.

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During 2009 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 Well number 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	n/a	8.2	.3 to 8.2	ppb		N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2	n/a	0.141	.00650 to .141	ppm	11/08/06	N	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	n/a	6.5	nd to 6.50	ppb	11/08/06	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 6.0 ppb.

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	6.78	2.21 to 6.78	p/Cu/L	03/31/2003	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226&228)	5	0	0.852	.011 to . 0852	pCi/L	03/31/2003	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Emitters	15	0	8.58	nd to 8.58	pCi/L	03/31/2003	N	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	80	n/a	18.3	18.3 to 18.3	ppb		N	By-product of water chlorination
HAA Haloacetic Acids	60	n/a	nd	nd to nd	ppb		N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	0.74	0.58 to 0.74	ppm		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	0.0023	ppb	0 out of 30	06/14/2007	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.412	ppm	0 out of 30	06/14/2007	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. Perkasie 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 or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead."*

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

The source 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 my 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).

Credit Card and Recurring Payments

We have recently made changes to our payment process and now offer a few new options to pay your water/sewer bill. Although, we have been taking credit card payments for the last few months, we recently changed credit card companies and now accept VISA, Mastercard, and Discover at no additional cost to the customer to pay with a credit card.
We also now offer recurring payments. With the recurring payment option, we can have your credit card automatically billed every quarter or we can have the money automatically deducted from a checking or savings account.
We are currently working with our web development team to hopefully soon be able to offer online payments. There are a lot of security issues that need to be resolved, but we are hoping to soon be able to offer our customers the ability to view their bill online and make payments via our website. Stay tuned for updates as to when this service will be up and running.
If you would like more information on any of these payment options or would like to sign up for the recurring payment option, please contact the office for further details.

Long Time Employee Recognized

On December 31, 2009, after 39 years of service to the Perkasie Borough Authority, Gregory C. Preston retired. Greg started at the Authority on November 23, 1970. At the Authority Board Meeting on Tuesday April 20, 2010, Vice Chairman Ben Rainear presented Greg with a plaque commemorating his years of service. During the presentation, Mr. Rainear highlighted some fun facts from that time period. He reminded us that gas was $.40 a gallon when Greg started. Greg reminded us that he was making $2.65 an hour in 1970! The Authority Board and Staff wish him and his family only the best in his retirement.

Water Quality and YOU

The purpose of this report as you should know is to keep you as informed as possible about your water quality. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the direction of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act, is responsible for the creation and oversight of all the regulations that we here at PBA must meet before we can provide you with drinking water. The enforcement of their regulations may then be passed on to the local state agency which in our case is the PA DEP.

Once technology has been developed to treat different aspects of water quality (ie. Arsenic or TCE removal), the Authority must design and then prove to the PA DEP the chosen method works. Once approved, the installation, operation, and maintenance becomes the responsibility of the Authority. Tests are performed either daily, monthly, or quarterly and reported to PA DEP.

Sometimes, however, we come across situations with water quality that, initially, we have a hard time explaining. This is where you, our customers, come in.

We are finding that more and more taste and odor complaints are coming from customer with in house filtration devices. These devices range from whole house filters to point of use filters (under sink filters, end of faucet filters, etc.). These filters literally 'strip' the chlorine and minerals from the water, which we understand some of you want.

However, many of these filters are not maintained on any type of schedule. In fact, we have found property owners who didn't know previous property owners had installed water filters. Left un-monitored/maintained, the filter media creates virtually the perfect place for bacteria to grow.

Without the chlorine to control the bacteria, your hot water system also becomes a breeding ground, especially if the temperature is below 110 degrees. Many of the 'rotten egg' smells originate here.

In home water filtration is a personal preference, although as a public water supplier, we don't believe it to be necessary. If you choose to have one installed, please be sure to follow all the directions for cleaning and replacing the filter media.

If your concern is only the chlorine taste that some of you experience, keep a jug of water in the refrigerator or put a slice of lemon in the glass. It is both cheaper and better for you!

PERKASIE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

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Perkasie, PA 18944-0159

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Benjamin Rainear, Vice-Chairman
Robert Wasson, Secretary
Thomas Horn, Treasurer
David Watt, Asst. Sec/Treas

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Dean Leach, Sys. Operator
Dave Moyer, Sys. Operator
Bill Yerger, Meter Tech

FOR EMERGENCIES
OUR STAFF IS AVAILABLE
24 HOURS A DAY
at
215-257-3654