

JUNE 2011

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
agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo
entienda bien.

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

Lawn Watering

- Can range from 7 gallons per square foot of yard up to 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 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

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 2010. 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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Water Quality Report..... | 2-6 |
| Health Advisory..... | 3 |
| Sources of Contaminants..... | 3 |
| Ensuring Quality..... | 3 |
| Lead in Drinking Water..... | 5 |
| Rate Increase..... | 6 |
| Payment Options..... | 7 |
| Customer Notification..... | 7 |
| Building our Future..... | 7 |
| Construction Update..... | 7 |

2010 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 Perkasio 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 Perkasio Borough Authority Office, 306 N. Fifth St., Perkasio, PA 18944.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water source is comprised of several municipal wells in the Borough of Perkasio 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 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, 2010. 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 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

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.

During 2010, samples were tested at QC Labs, Inc., Southampton, PA (215)355-3900
and Benchmark Analytics, Inc., Center Valley, PA 18034 (610)974-8100

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 drawback 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 | MCL G | Highest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination |
|----------------------|------------------|-------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Arsenic | 10 | 0 | 8.7 | 1.0 to 8.7 | ppb | 12/14/10 | N | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium | 2 | 2 | 0.141 | .00650 to .141 | ppm | 11/08/06 | N | Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium | 50 | 50 | 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 | 3.48 | 2.55 to 3.48 | p/Cu/L | 12/14/2010 | N | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Combined Radium (226&228) | 5 | 0 | 2.750 | .334 to 2.750 | pCi/L | 12/14/2010 | N | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Gross Alpha Emitters | 15 | 0 | 7.410 | .740 to .7410 | pCi/L | 12/14/2010 | N | Erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHM Total Trihalomethanes | 80 | n/a | 27.51 | 27.51 to 27.51 | ppb | 08/10/2010 | N | By-product of water chlorination |
| HAA Haloacetic Acids | 60 | n/a | .50 | .50 to .50 | ppb | 08/10/2010 | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chlorine | 4 MRDL | 4 MRDLG | 1.43 | 0.55 to 1.43 | ppm | 11/03/2010 12/27/2010 | 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 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 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

Rate Increases

In the January 2011 newsletter, we informed all of our customers that we were trying to purchase the Sellersville Water System. If we had been successful in doing so, we would be able to keep our rates for water and sewer the same as 2010.

The Perkasio Borough Authority Board kept the rates the same through the first quarter of 2011 while a decision was made at Sellersville.

Unfortunately, Sellersville decided to sell the water system to the North Penn Water Authority. The Perkasio Borough Authority lost the opportunity to gain an additional 1,900 customers to help pay costs in addition to the loss of combining the two systems and being able to utilize the existing facilities of both systems.

Additional regulatory requirements, regulatory fees, additional manpower and the need to start planning for a new operation center has left the Board with no other choice but to increase rates.

For a family using an average of 15,000 gallons of water per quarter, the combined increase is \$20.75 per quarter. For customers with water service only, the increase is \$7.00 per quarter and those with sewer service only, the increase is \$13.75 per quarter.

Payment Options

The Authority Staff has worked diligently with their software company and is happy to announce that customers can now view their bill online via the authority website (www.perkasieauthority.org) as well as pay their bill online with a VISA, Mastercard, or Discover credit card.

Customers can still pay their bill by mailing a check, paying over the phone with a credit card, or stopping in the office to pay via cash, check, or credit card. The Authority also offers customers the ability to set up recurring payments, where the Authority will automatically draft money from their bank account via an ACH or automatically charge a credit card when their bill is due.

To get more information on any of these payment options, or download the recurring payment forms, please visit the Authority website or call the office.

Customer Notification

Over the last few years, the Authority has endeavored to improve communications with our customers. First and foremost is our website (www.perkasieauthority.org) which we try to update weekly. The second is by our automated phone system, Rapid Response. The initial intent of Rapid Response was to allow us to notify you immediately of any emergency with the water supply (ie: line breaks, quality problems, etc.). In order to reduce costs we have also started notifying customer of past due amounts.

For the first time, we also used the system as a follow-up to our post card mailers regarding system flushing.

In order for the system to be as efficient as possible, it is important that we have correct, updated phone numbers. Please ensure we have your correct phone number by: 1) setting up your on-line account and updating your phone number; 2) email us your phone number to info@perkasieauthority.org or 3) call us at 215-257-3654.

We would also appreciate any feedback from you as to whether or not these steps we are taking to keep you better informed are helpful to you.

Building our Future

As we have told you over the last couple of years, the Authority has entered into service area agreements with both East and West Rockhill Townships. These agreements will ensure the sustainability of the Authority well into the future.

One of the next steps the Authority must take to move into the future is to relocate our facilities to a site that is more conducive to our operations.

We have operated out of our current site for just over 20 years. The building and grounds have been modified as much as possible and the time has come to construct a new facility that allows us to operate efficiently, grow as we need to and comply with all of the current and foreseeable regulations. The Board has looked into modifying the current facilities, but compliance with all of today's regulations make that option cost prohibitive.

Therefore, in April, the Board voted unanimously to purchase a 4.3 acre parcel of land on Ridge Road to serve as the Authority's future home. The site is located between the Comcast building and the new Regional Police Headquarters, which is currently under construction.

The Board is currently reviewing architectural proposals and hope to make a decision by the end of the summer.

Construction Update

The PBA Board awarded a 'Notice of Award' to Andrich, Inc. for the construction of a 12 inch water line from the White Horse Tavern to Catch Basin Road. They also issued a Notice of Award to extend sewer to the Regional Police Station on the Ridge Road.

Well #10—The installation of an Arsenic Removal Treatment System is nearing completion. We expect the well to be back in service around the beginning of June. This is the same type of system that was installed in 2006 on Well #11 which has exceeded all expectations for the removal of the naturally occurring arsenic. We expect the same results at Well #10.

In conjunction with East Rockhill Township's road paving project for West Schwenkmill Road, the Board has decided to install water lines from Ridge Road, approximately 550 feet down the hill towards 5th St. The project is scheduled to start in June.

PERKASIE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

306 N. 5th Street
P.O. Box 159
Perkasie, PA 18944-0159

Presorted Bulk Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 92
Perkasie, PA 18944

[

Our Board Members:

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

Our Staff:

Gary J. Winton, Manager
Raymond M. Conville, Asst. Mgr.
Nicholas Fretz, Financial Officer
Kathy Bitner-Brown, Accts Rec.
Patricia Fluck, Admin. Asst.
Mark Erenius, Sys. Supervisor
Mark Kelly, Sys. Operator
Mike Kerr, Sys. Operator
Dean Leach, Sys. Operator
Dave Moyer, Sys. Operator
Newton Condict Jr., Sys. Operator
Bill Yerger, Meter Tech

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