

**2012 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT****PWSID #: 7360118      NAME: Strasburg Borough Municipal Water Authority**

*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 Lisa M. Boyd, Borough Manager, at 717-687-7732. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Authority meetings. They are held the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

**SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water sources are: Fisher Well, King Well, Rohrer Well, Old Springs, New Springs, and Mowrer Springs, located in Strasburg, Eden and Paradise Townships.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). Overall, our source(s) have little risk of significant contamination. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP South Central Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 705-4732.

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 of 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:**

*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.

*Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)* - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

*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)

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

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

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

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
BARIUM	2000	2000	150	99 - 150	ppb	2012	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
CHLORINE (Distribution)	4.0	4.0	1.1	1 - 1.1	ppm	Sept 2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
BROMATE	10	0	5.5	0 - 5.5	ppb	2012	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
NITRATE	10	10	8.6	2.6 - 8.6	ppm	2012	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
HALOACETIC ACIDS (FIVE)	60	N/A	1.6	0 - 1.6	ppb	2010	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TRIHALOMETHANES	80	N/A	2.9	0 - 2.9	ppb	2010	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
RADIUM 226	5**	0	1.35	0 - 1.35	pCi/L	2011	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM 228	5**	0	3.33	0 - 3.33	pCi/L	2011	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
GROSS ALPHA	15	0	5.86	0 - 5.86	pCi/L	2011	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
GROSS BETA	N/A	N/A	6.36	N/A	pCi/L	2010	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

\*\*The MCL for Radium 226 & 228 combined is 5 pCi/L

<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	2	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.6	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine EP-101 (Water Plant)	0.40	0.9	0.9 – 1.6	ppm	01/15/2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine EP-102 (Old Spring)	0.70	0.9	0.9 – 1.5	ppm	06/09/2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine EP-103 (New Spring)	0.70	0.9	1 – 1.5	ppm	01/10/2012	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>Microbial</b>					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 1 positive monthly sample</li> </ul>	0	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or E. coli		0	1	Y	Human and animal fecal waste.

**HEALTH EFFECTS:**

*About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your healthcare provider.*

**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. The Strasburg 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 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. 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).

### **Violations**

Our water system violated a drinking water standard during 2012. Even though this was not an emergency, 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 all the required testing was not done and therefore we 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 2012, how often we are supposed to sample for this/these contaminant(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 or will be taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples will be or were taken
Distribution Chlorine	Daily	Daily	April 2012	April 2012 Reported Late
Nitrate EP-101 & 103	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Nitrite EP-101 & 103	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
All Below were Missed at EP-102 & 103				
Carbofuran	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
2,4-D	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,2-Dichlorobenze	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Xylenes	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Dichloromethane	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Dichlorobenze	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Para- Dichlorobenze	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,1,Dichloroethylene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,2-Dichloroethane	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Carbon Tetrachloride	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,2-Dichloropropane	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Trichloroethylene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Tetrachloroethylene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Chlorobenzene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Benzene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Toluene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Ethylbenzene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013
Styrene	One Sample/Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> quarters	Missed 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	Quarterly 2013

### What happened? What is being done?

Although our test results are consistently below acceptable levels, we inadvertently missed having the drinking water tested for the listed contaminants and we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. The tests were done in 2012 & 2013 with no violations.

On August 30, 2012, one of our 3 monthly bacteria samples tested positive for Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria. At that time, we issued a "Boil Water" notice, increased our disinfectant levels, and continued having the water tested. Later test results showed no E. coli present and the boil water restriction was discontinued. Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effect, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.