

Stewartstown Borough Water Authority

Stewartstown Borough & Hopewell Township

1998 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Stewartstown Borough Water Authority is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This annual water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains much important information about water and health. Stewartstown Borough Water Authority will notify you immediately if there is any reason for concern about our water. We are happy to show you how we have surpassed water-quality standards.

We are proud to report that the water provided by Stewartstown Borough Water Authority meets or exceeds established water-quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Sewer & Water Committee meetings occur on the third Monday of every month, at the Stewartstown Borough Office meeting room (side door) at 7:00P.M. The public is welcome. More information is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.waterdata.com>.

Overview

Stewartstown Borough Water Authority purchased the water system from General Water Works in 1984. The Authority is proud of all the improvements to the water system since that time, such as new water towers, replacement of better than 90% of water mains and service lines along with all new fire hydrants. Along with this the Authority lowered the water rate by \$1.95 per 1000 gallons of useage effective in the third quarter billing of 1999. The Stewartstown Borough Water Authority strives to continue to provide good service and quality by looking for future needs of water supply and keeping up with the new technology.

Water Source

Stewartstown Borough Water Authority is supplied by groundwater pumped from 8 wells located in and around Stewartstown Borough, southern York County.

An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.

Key To Table

AL = Action Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

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

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

pci/l = picocuries per liter (a mesure of radioactivity)

ppb=parts per billiob, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
*1 Lead	06/01/98	ppb	AL=15	0	3.90	1 - 3.9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
*2 Nitrate	12/31/98	ppm	10	10	9.94	4.93 - 9.94	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
*3 Copper	06/01/98	ppm	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	1.15	0.01 - 1.15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Benzene	06/09/98	ppb	5	0	0.57	0 - 0.57	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills	NO
Dichloromethane	12/15/98	ppb	5	0	0.69	0 - 0.69	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories	NO
*4 Tetrachloroethylene	06/09/98	ppb	5	0	2.37	0 - 2.37	Leaching from PVC pipes; Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	NO

Water-Quality Table Footnotes

*1 90th percentile results from testing period.

*2 The average nitrate level for the year was 7.84 ppm.

*3 90th percentile results from testing period.

*4 This was detected at one source and only showed up at one testing.

Although we ran many tests, only the listed substances were found. They are all below the MCL required.

Unregulated Contaminants

Stewartstown Borough Water Authority did not test for Radon during 1998.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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).

The sources of drinking 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 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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock

operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Stewartstown Borough Authority water source is wells only, eliminating some of the concerns of surface water. Some of the contaminants, such as radon, do not have yearly testing requirements. In the years to come and as testing is required you will see results of any contaminants detected. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Concerning Nitrate in Our Water:

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 advice from your health care provider.

This report was prepared by Ira D. Walker, Jr. and Robert L. Hunt using CCRbuilder and technical assistance provided by the American Water Works Association along with guidance from the York, PA. office of D.E.P. We would like to thank Chester Young and William Baker for their assistance.

We'll be happy to answer any questions about Stewartstown Borough Water Authority and our water quality. Call at 717-993-2963 Ext. 205

Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.

The Stewartstown Borough Water Authority is a member of the American Water Works Association and the Pennsylvania Rural Water Works Association

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance