

# BLAIRSVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



Trout Run

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT Reporting Year 2015

The Blairsville Municipal Authority (PWS ID#5320006) is pleased to present this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This Report, required by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We have a source water assessment report available at our office that provides more detailed information such as potential sources of contamination. A summary of our water system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination follows:

*A Source Water Assessment of the Trout Run Reservoir and the land area that provides groundwater, which supplies water to the Treatment Plant, was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment found that the assessment area is potentially most susceptible to accidental spills along roads, aerial spraying near telephone lines and erosion from ATV use. Summary reports of the Assessment are available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (Keyword "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 412-442-4000.*

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 us at:

**Ronald G. Hood, Executive Director**  
**Blairsville Municipal Authority**  
**203 East Market Street, Blairsville, PA 15717**  
**Phone: 724-459-5020**

The Authority wants its customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly-scheduled meetings. They are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Blairsville Municipal Building.

Our raw water is withdrawn from four different sources: the Trout Run Reservoir, two wells that are located near the Trout Run Reservoir and a third well situated near Bear Run and Township Road T-972. All of our water sources are located in Derry Township, Westmoreland County.

The Blairsville Municipal Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of the monitoring for the period of January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015. As you can see by the data table, our system had no violations for water quality. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. It should be noted that the Authority failed to submit the samples for VOCs in 2015. We are reviewing our procedures to ensure that this paperwork will be submitted in a timely manner in the future.

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 human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is treated 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 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- ★ *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- ★ *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.

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. Food and Drug Administration and EPA 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 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>.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.)

## WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in our water during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Microbiological Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (a)	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement		0.220 NTU	N/A	4/27/15	No	Soil runoff
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT—at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU More than one positive monthly sample	0	100%	N/A	N/A	No	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.15	N/A	9/30/15	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leach from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.87 (b)	N/A	9/28/15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) and Byproduct Precursors							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	60	N/A	21.6 (RAA)	6.40-29.6	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	80	N/A	40.4 (RAA)	13.2-67.4	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Alternative Compliance Criteria = Treated Water TOC < 2.0 mg/l		1.39	1.39	2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
Disinfectant Residuals	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Average	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm) - Entry Point	Min RDL - 0.2		1.30	0.50-1.30	3/15/2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm) - Distribution System	4	4	1.11	0.24-1.02	Oct 2015	No	
Copper and Lead	AL	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	# of Sites Found Above the AL	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.03	0 of 20 sites sampled	6/1/15 – 9/30/15	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	15	0	8	1 of 20 sites sampled	6/1/15 – 9/30/15	No	

(a) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

(b) Fluoride is added to the system. The 9/28/15 sample was analyzed by the Blairsville Municipal Authority and is typical of the fluoride concentration.

### Terms and abbreviations used above:

- ★ **Parts per million (ppm)** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- ★ **Parts per billion (ppb)** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- ★ **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
- ★ **Not Applicable (N/A)**
- ★ **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ★ **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ★ **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 benefit of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- ★ **Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (Min RDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
- ★ **Running Annual Average (RAA)**

### Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
- ◆ **Check your toilet for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
- ◆ **Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.** There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
- ◆ **Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.** Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.
- ◆ **Take shorter showers.** One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20-40 gallons of water.
- ◆ **Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.** Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge.
- ◆ **Insulate your water pipes.** It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

### Water Conservation Summary

In 1990, 30 states in the US reported "water-stress" conditions. In 2000, the number of states reporting water-stress rose to 40. In 2009, the number rose to 45. There is a worsening trend in water supply nationwide. Taking measures at home to conserve water not only saves you money, it also is of benefit to the greater community.

Saving water at homes does not require any significant cost outlay. Although, there are water-saving appliances and water conservation systems such as rain barrels, drip irrigation and on-demand water heaters which are more expensive, the bulk of water saving methods can be achieved at little cost. For example, 75% of water used indoors is in the bathroom, and 25% of this is for the toilet. The average toilet uses 4 gallons per flush (gpf). You can invest in a ULF (ultra-low flush) toilet which will use only 2 gpf. But you can also install a simple tank bank, costing about \$2, which will save .8 gpf. This saves 40% of what you would save with the ULF toilet. Using simple methods like tank banks, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators you can retrofit your home for under \$50.

By using water-saving features you can reduce your in-home water use by 35%. This means the average household, which uses 130,000 gallons per year, could save 44,000 gallons of water per year. On a daily basis, the average household, using 350 gallons per day, could save 125 gallons of water per day. The average individual, currently using 70 gallons per day, could save 25 gallons per day.

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