

# BLAIRSVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018



*Figure 1: Trout Run*

The Blairsville Municipal Authority (PWS ID#5320006) is pleased to present to you 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 has 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:

**Timothy E. Evans, Manager**  
**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 6:00 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Our raw water is withdrawn from four different sources: the Trout Run Reservoir, two wells that are located near the Trout Run Reservoir and a third well situated near Bear Run and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 to December 31, 2018. As you can see by the data table, our system had no violations for water quality. However, the Authority had a violation for failure to submit a turbidity report within the scheduled time period during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. In addition, the Authority's lab misplaced a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Trihalomethane sample, and a replacement sample was collected in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. PADEP was satisfied with the result, and no violation was issued. We are reviewing our procedures to ensure that this paperwork will be submitted in a timely manner in the future. The state and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

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:

- 1 *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 1 *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.
- 1 *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- 1 *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- 1 *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 2018 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Microbiological		Highest		Sample			Typical Source	
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Range	Date	Violation	of Contaminant	
Turbidity (a)	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement		0.191					
			NTU	N/A	12/19/18	No		
	TT=at least 95% of monthly samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	0					Soil runoff	
Total Coliform Bacteria	More than one positive monthly sample	0	100%	N/A	N/A	No	Naturally present in the environment	
			0%	N/A	N/A			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.14	N/A	10/30/18	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leach from septic deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.70 (b)	N/A	10/30/18	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) and Byproduct Precursors								
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	60	N/A	18.0 (RAA)	0.0-20.9	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	80	N/A	44.25 (RAA)	21.5-57.7	2018	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Alternative Compliance Criteria = Treated Water TOC < 2.0 mg/l			0.53-1.07	2018	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		1.55	0.40-1.55	08/08/2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm) - Distribution System		4	4	1.21	0.37-1.21	08/08/2018	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	0.032	0 of 22 sites sampled	6/1/16 – 9/30/16	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2	0 of 22 sites sampled	6/1/16 – 9/30/16	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

### Terms and abbreviations used above:

- 1 **Parts per million (ppm)** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- 1 **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
- 1 **Not Applicable (N/A)**
- 1 **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 1 **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- 1 **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.
- 1 **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.
- 1 **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.
- 1 **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.
- 1 **Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (Min RDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.
- 1 **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.

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