

2015

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Upper Hanover Authority

PWS ID#1460036

*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.)*

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water 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 want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

To meet growth and new requirements, Upper Hanover Authority is continuously making upgrades to its water supply and distribution system. Currently our water sources consist of four wells. We also receive additional water from the Red Hill Water Authority, which consists of two wells and a spring-fed reservoir. A copy of Red Hills quality report is available upon request.

The water system is operated by four water-works operators. Three operators are certified by the Department of Environmental Protection and

are licensed to operate public water systems in the state of Pennsylvania.

The Upper Hanover Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some of these constituents have been detected.

The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Total water usage for this report year was 266,226,620 gallons.



**\*PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER WITHIN THIS REPORT**

**If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact:**

**William Kalb  
Operations Manager  
215-679-3129**

**We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility!**

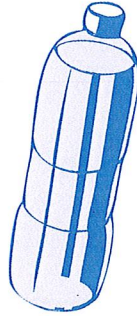
**To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings.**

**6:00 p.m.  
the first Thursday of each month  
Upper Hanover Township Building  
Pillsbury Drive and State Streets  
Upper Hanover Township**

## 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 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.
- **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).

*The following table may include terms and abbreviations with which you are not familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided definitions in the box below.*

### 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 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)

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

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



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

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

### 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 Upper Hanover 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>.

### Information 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 health care provider.

### Information About Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low 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.

## 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
Arsenic	10	10	5	5	Mg/l	03/04/15	N	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards
Nitrate	10	10	5.01	1.57 to 5.01	Mg/l	02/18/15	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
THM	15	NA	.0018	.0007 to .0018	Mg/l	09/23/15	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haa5	80	NA	.0052	.004 to .0052	Mg/l	09/23/15	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Gross Alfa	15	0	6.03	5.93 to 6.03	pCi/l	10/19/11	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	15	0	3.23	1.43 to 3.23	pCi/l	10/19/11	N	Erosion of natural deposits



\* EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

### Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine		0.22	.022 to 1.87	ppm	5/01/15	N	Water additive used to control microbes

### Lead and Copper

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	.002	ppm	20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.215	ppm	20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

### Microbial

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: • More than 1 positive monthly sample For systems that collect ≥40 samples/month: • 5% of monthly samples are positive	0	2	Y	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

### Raw Source Water Microbial

Contaminant	MCLG	Total # of Positive Samples	Dates	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i>	0			N	Human and animal fecal waste

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This notice is being sent to you by William Kalb, Manager, who can be reached at 215-679-3129 for more information.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

#### Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Upper Hanover Authority Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took five samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during September 2015. Two of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one may do so.

#### What should I do?

**You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to

lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

#### What happened? What was done?

We believe contamination occurred due to improper sample collection procedures. Operators have received additional training in sample collection procedures.

## Monitoring Your Water

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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, 2015. 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.



*The Upper Hanover Authority works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask our customers to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.*

**Please call our office if you have any questions at 215-679-3129**

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P.O. Box 205  
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