

Greater Johnstown Water Authority **2001 Annual Water Quality Report**

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority is pleased to present our annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2001. This report provides information about our system, the quality of our water, and important related health information. The Greater Johnstown Water Authority's drinking water continues to meet and surpass all federal and state drinking-water standards. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and reliable drinking water.

We are interested in your thoughts about our 2001 Annual Water Quality Report. If you have any questions or comments about it, or any concerns about your drinking water, please contact Marty Ward at 533-5758 during regular business hours. We encourage public interest and participation in decisions affecting our community's drinking water. Regular monthly meetings occur on the second Thursday of the month at the Westmont Borough Building at 7:30 P.M. The public is welcome. You can also find out more about The Greater Johnstown Water Authority on the Internet at <http://webpages.charter.net/gjwa/>.

Important Health Information for People with Severely Weakened Immune Systems

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).

Protecting Your Water Sources

The PA DEP is currently putting together a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the Dalton Reservoir, North Fork Reservoir, Saltlick Reservoir, Quemahoning Reservoir, Red Run Well, and Mineral Point Well. The program is required to delineate the boundaries of the area providing source water, identify the possible origins of contaminants, and to determine the susceptibility of public water systems to the contaminants. The goal of the SWAP is to provide information that may lead to improvements in raw water quality and may also result in reduced treatment costs. Assessments may also help to continue or to enhance emergency response, improve land use planning and municipal decisions, and prioritize and coordinate actions by federal and state agencies to better protect public health and safety. Two public meetings were held by the DEP with GJWA members and Laurel Management Company employees in attendance. The source water assessment results will be made available to the public, and a summary will be included in next year's Water Quality Report. Our SWAP is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2002.

Where does your water come from? How is it treated?

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority is supplied by surface water from the North Fork Reservoir, Dalton Reservoir, and the Quemahoning Reservoir. These three reservoirs, located in northern Somerset County in Conemaugh Township, supply water to the Riverside Water Treatment Plant at 242 Neil Street in South Riverside. The three sources can be used individually or blended together depending on the raw water quality and quantity. The benefits provided by the water treatment plant include: removing disease producing organisms, removing iron and manganese, removing suspended and colloidal matter, reducing corrosiveness, reducing color, and removing unpleasant taste and odor. Fluoride is also added to prevent cavities in

children's teeth.

The three primary treatment processes are 1.) coagulation/flocculation where dirt particles are aggregated together, 2.) filtration where the aggregate dirt particles are removed, and 3.) disinfection where chlorine is added to inactivate bacteria. During 2001, an average of 6.3 million gallons of water per day was treated at the Riverside Treatment Plant. The plant is operated 24 hours a day by Laurel Management Company operators who are certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

Definitions

Parts per million (ppm)– One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb)– One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit– Unit of measurement for the cloudiness of water.

Abbreviations

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (?g/l)

TT = Treatment Technique

AL = Action Level

n/a = not applicable

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 2001 by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water is listed here. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Water Quality Table

These columns show the results of tests on our finished water.

Contaminants (unit of measurement)	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely sources of contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	No	1.76	0.68-1.76	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (ppm)	No	1.05	n/a	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) (ppb)	No	38.2 ¹	15.0-45.0	n/a	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Contaminant (unit of measurement)	Violation	Level Detected 90% percentile	Action Level (AL)	# of sites above AL	MCLG	
Copper (ppm)	No	0.11	1.3 ppm	0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) ²	No	13.0	15 ppb	3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Microbiological (unit of measurement)	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	
Turbidity (NTU) ³	No	0.08	100% ⁴	n/a	TT	Soil runoff

¹This number is the highest running average over a four-quarter sampling period.

²Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, and you may flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

³Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because turbidity is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Federal regulations have set a Treatment Technique (TT) limit of 0.500 NTU in 95% of samples. Our maximum turbidity reading was 0.08 NTU.

⁴In 2001, 100% of turbidity

Water Quality and Health Related 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 (both tap water and bottled water) include 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:

* Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

* 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.

* Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as

* 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.

* 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Health Effects Language for Detected Contaminants

Fluoride – Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Nitrate – Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Total Trihalomethanes – Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Copper – Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water

containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney

samples met the turbidity limits.

damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead – Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Turbidity – Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps diarrhea and associated headaches.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority and Laurel Management Company, its manager, are ready to respond to your call Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency calls are answered around the clock at 533-5700. The following numbers are listed for your convenience:

Administrative Assistant:

Louis Soulcheck ----- 533-5719

Laurel Management Company President:

William Cvrkel ----- 533-5744

Customer Services:

Billing ----- 533-5705

Transfers ----- 533-5724

Collections ----- 533-5720 or 533-5730

Readings ----- 533-5769

Dirty Water ----- 533-5740

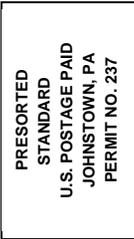
Laboratory ----- 533-5758

THE FUTURE

In the last several years, the Greater Johnstown Water Authority (GJWA) has experienced a significant drop in revenues as water consumption decreased as a result of the loss of residential, commercial and industrial customers. This loss is approaching one million gallons per day. At the same time, fixed operating costs are escalating, such as telephone and computer costs, electricity, natural gas, insurance, etc. In addition GJWA has an aging system whose integrity requires significant capital improvements.

The Board of Directors has been studying this dilemma for some time in an attempt to develop the best programs to stabilize system finances in order to maintain current standards and to develop methods to expand sales. Considered as possible solutions are bond issues, PennVest loans, government grants and a possible rate increase in 2003. In addition, with the guidance of state DEP officials, GJWA has entered into a consortium steering committee of neighboring small water authorities to offer additional supplies and a back-up system to needy areas.

To provide the GJWA system with an adequate supply of water due to drought or possible shut-down of North Fork Reservoir for an extended period, and for possible expansion west where Riverside Treatment Plant water cannot be delivered, a small water treatment plant will be built at Saltlick Reservoir, Mineral Point. The Saltlick Reservoir was updated to current federal and state standards in the early 90's. At that time, Gannett Fleming, the Authority's consulting engineer, and Laurel Management Company recommended a treatment plant be constructed there, but the plans were postponed until now. When put on line, this plant will provide 4.0 million gallons daily for the western city area and for expansion, thus ensuring that GJWA's water system will provide sufficient water for years to come and at the lowest possible cost.



Greater Johnstown Water Authority
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2001 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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Riverside Treatment Plant 533-5710