



*Portland Borough Authority  
P.O. Box 572  
Portland, PA 18351*

**Portland Borough Authority**  
**2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**PWSID #3480059**

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

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (**Consumer Confidence Report**) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact any Board member or call the PBA office at 570-897-6470.

**Keep this Report in a safe place.  
You will need it if you refinance, or have a question  
as to your water quality!**

**Portland Borough Authority Board Members**

<b>Lance Prator</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>James Potter</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
<b>Robert Waldron</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Assistant Secretary/Treasurer</b>
<b>Holly O'Brien</b>	<b>Secretary</b>

Members of the PBA board are volunteers who receive NO salary.

The board meets on the third Monday of each month, at 7 o'clock p.m. in the PBA office, 206 Division Street, Portland. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to address the board at the meeting.

Additional information about your water company can be found on Page 3.

**Current Resident or**

**Postal Customer**  
**Portland, PA 18351**

**PSRT—STD.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Portland, PA 18351  
PERMIT #7**

## Water System Information

Portland Borough Authority currently operates four wells located in Upper Mt. Bethel Township, Northampton County. Three are located on property owned by PBA and one within National Park property. For further information, please contact our office.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

DEP requires all utilities have emergency contact procedures in place. PBA has uses Rave to notify all customers of an emergency, such as a water leak, boil advisory, or contamination. To ensure that you will be notified, call us at 570-897-6470 and leave the following information on our voice mail: **Name, property location, (not post office box), phone number, e-mail and if you are the owner or tenant.** This information will be kept private and only used in the event of an emergency.

**Please put your address number on your house so emergency personnel can locate you.**

### Call before you Dig!

Pennsylvania One Call System provides a toll-free number for anyone planning on excavating to call before digging. The center notifies affected facility and utility owners, who must mark the location of their underground lines with paint or flags. **ALL** excavators, including municipalities to notify the state's 24-hour One Call Center **at least three business days before digging.** Those who don't comply face jail terms and fines of up to \$25,000. **The Call before you Dig phone number is 811 (8-1-1).** Be safe, not sorry. **Call 811 BEFORE you dig.**

Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs are contaminating waterways at an alarming rate. **DO NOT** flush drugs down the toilet or throw in trash. Most municipalities and some pharmacies offer programs that take your drugs for proper disposal.

**DO NOT dispose of motor oil or hazardous waste in toilets or drains. Doing so results in contamination of water, which may result in higher water bills to due to decontamination costs.**

### **Stealing Water from Hydrants is Stealing Water From Customers!**

It is unlawful to take water from hydrants servicing Portland Borough Authority without the express permission from the Authority. This theft of water affects all customers. When water is being removed from a hydrant, the households in the area of that hydrant experience a drop in water pressure, resulting in dirty water. In extreme cases, it may be necessary for Portland Borough Authority to "flush" the system, affecting more customers. **If you see anyone removing water from a hydrant, please call our Water Superintendent at 570-656-2575 or call the police.**

**REMEMBER—it is your water they are stealing.**

## 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, radio-active 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 storm water run-off, 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 storm water 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 storm water 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).

**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. 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>.

**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.

## Monitoring Your Water

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables on pages 4-5 show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. 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.

### 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.

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

**Mrem/year** = milligrams 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 ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

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

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

**NOTE:** MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

## Policies and Schedules of Portland Borough Authority

**Meter Readings and Bills:** Meters read quarterly. Bills mailed first week of January, April, July and October. **Failure to receive bill does not forgive obligation.** Call office if you do not receive your bill.

**Water bills are payable to PBA.** Mail to P.O. Box 572, Portland, PA 18351. **Sewer bills payable to Portland Sewer Fund.** Mail to P.O. Box 476, Portland, PA 18351. **Checks written or mailed to the wrong entity will be returned and late fees will apply.**

Water Bills may be paid by cash, money order, Credit/Debit Card **or** at any Fidelity Bank location.

**Late Fees:** 10% of the account balance 30 days after bills mailed. Deadline for late fees listed on the bill. To avoid late fees, please insure payment is post-marked on or before the late fee deadline.

**Payment Plans:** Bills may be paid in full or installments. Late fees still be posted on unpaid balances. Once property is posted any payment plan must be approved by the Board of Directors. A signed Agreement is required.

**Postings:** Properties 45 days overdue, with over \$200 balance. \$30 posting fee. **If your account is delinquent, kindly begin making payments.**

**Shut offs: \$56 fee; Turn On: \$56 fee.** Prior to water being restored. Authority requires 72 hours notice to restore water service. There is a \$50 filing fee plus fees and costs for Municipal Lien filed against delinquent properties. .

**Tampering with PBA property,** including turning water on or off, disconnecting or damaging a meter, will incur a service call fee as well as additional fines and civil penalties up to \$500 **per offense.** Call the office for **any** repairs or water service problems.

**Meter damage:** It is customer's responsibility to protect meter from damage such as freezing. Meter damage due to customer's negligence results in a charge to replace the meter and cost of the meter.

**Standby:** Properties vacant more than 3 months **may** qualify for reduced water bill. Water must be shut off to place in standby. Regular shut off/turn on fees apply. Call the office for details.

**Dirty Water:** If you experience dirty water, please call the Water Authority Office immediately. **Remember:** We must be aware of the problem before we can correct it!

**Moving? Current owner is responsible** to call for final water bill and notify Authority of the purchaser's name and address.

## 2024 Water Quality Data Table

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected from January 1 through December 31, 2024. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below.

### **DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>		<b>MCL in CCR Units</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Chlorine (as Cl2)	MRDL= 4	MRDLG = 4	0.22	0.22-1.50	ppm	2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes	
HAA5	0.06	NA	0.0128		ppb	2024	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
TTHMs	0.08	NA	0.0342		ppb	2024	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrite	1	1	0		ppm	2024	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	

### **Inorganic Contaminants**

Nickel (IOC)	0	1	0.004	NA		2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (IOC)	0	2	0.014	NA		2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos (IOC)	0	7	0.062	NA		2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

**Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Cyanide, Fluoride, Mercury, Selenium, Antimony, Beryllium and Thallium analysis results not detected.**

### **Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Minimum Disinfectant Residual</b>	<b>Lowest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Chlorine	0.8	0.8	0.8-1.89	ppm	2024	N	Water additives used to control microbes.

\*There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants

### **Copper & Lead**

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>90th Percentile Value</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b># of Sites Above AL of Total Sites</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Copper 2022	1.3	1.3	0.118	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead 2022	15	0	0	ppb	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

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. Portland Borough 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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).