

**New Sewickley Township  
Municipal Authority  
PWSID: 5040085  
Drinking Water Consumer  
Confidence Report for 2019**

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable.**

**Traduzcalo o 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.)**

### **Introduction**

The New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority (NSTMA) is pleased to present the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2019. This report is designed to inform you, the consumer, about the quality of your drinking water. The items included within this report are:

- general health information concerning your drinking water,
- water quality test results of detected substances performed on your drinking water for 2019,
- how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and
- telephone numbers of people to be reached concerning your drinking water.

### **Provider and Source Drinking Water Information**

The NSTMA is a consecutive water system which purchases its water from the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority (BFMA) for customers in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street / Harvey Run Road Service Area and from the Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) for customers in the Tri-County Commerce Service Area.

The source of water for the BFMA is the Beaver River, which is formed by the confluence of the Mahoning and Shenango Rivers near New Castle. There are also several smaller tributaries that feed into the watershed that feeds BFMA's Eastvale water treatment plant. Among these are the Connoquenessing, Pymatuning and Brush Creeks. The Beaver River provides surface water to the Eastvale water treatment plant. The capacity of this plant is 10 million gallons per day (MGD). Average daily production from the Eastvale WTP typically runs between 6 and 8 MGD.

The source of water for the AWA is the Service Creek reservoir, a 3.5 billion-gallon, man-made reservoir located in Raccoon Township on land

owned by AWA. The water is piped through seven (7) miles of 24-inch pipe to the Ambridge Treatment Facility where the water is treated and then distributed to its customers, including those customers in the Tri-County Commerce Park Water Service Area of the New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority. According to the AWA, this treatment facility provided an average of 4.1 MGD of drinking water during 2019.

### **Purpose of the CCR**

The purpose of this report is to provide detailed information about the analysis and treatment processes that are performed by NSTMA and BFMA and AWA for NSTMA in compliance with the State and Federal rules and regulations that govern the operation of a water provider's system.

### **Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man-made. Therefore, all 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or viewing the EPA website (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html>).

Substances 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 byproducts 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **Water Monitoring Test Results Table**

BFMA and AWA for NSTMA routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to State and Federal laws. This table shows results of the substances that were detected in the drinking water for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. **It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.**

In the table on the following page, you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million (ppm)** - one part per million (or milligrams per liter) is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb)** - one part per billion (or micrograms per liter) is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **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.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA)** – Mathematical average of analytical data in which four quarterly results are continuously averaged.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To help you understand the possible effects described for many regulated constituents, consider that a person would have to drink two liters of water every day for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having health effects.

### **Lead in Drinking Water**

Lead is a naturally occurring element in our environment. Consequently, our water supply is expected to contain small, undetectable amounts of lead. However, most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your own home, not from the local water supply. EPA estimates that more than 40 million U.S. residents use water that can contain lead in excess of EPA's Action Level of 15 ppb.

All kinds of water, however, may have high levels of lead. The drinking water supply is maintained at an optimum pH and mineral content level to help prevent corrosion in our home's pipes. To reduce lead levels in your drinking water, you should flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get (anywhere from 5 seconds to 2 minutes or longer), and use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (717-787-9035).

Additional information is also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) and the National Lead Information Center (800-LEAD-FYI).

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 Water System 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).

NSTMA		2019 Test Results				
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Highest RAA	Range Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	N	NA	0.54-1.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N	45.6	21.0-74.9	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	Y	35.8	11.7-66.7	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (NSTMA)							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Likely Sources of Contamination
Copper (2019)	1.3	1.3	0.171	ppm	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (2019)	15	0	2	ppb	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Turbidity									
Contaminant	MCL	Harvey Run Road Area System BFMA (PSWID 5040012)			Tri-County Commerce Park System AWA (PWSID 5040008)			MCLG	Source of Contamination
		Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N		
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0.011	6/28/19	N	0.24	2/14/2019	N	0	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU	100%	2019	N	100%	2019	N	NA	

TOC Total Organic Carbon						
	Harvey Run Road Area System BFMA (PSWID 5040012)					
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
TOC	25-45	35.3-65.3	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.	
	Tri-County Commerce Park System AWA (PWSID 5040008)					
TOC	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
	35-45	22.4 – 66.6*	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.	

\*AWA used an Alternative Compliance Criteria in lieu of TOC Removal for the First and Fourth Quarters of 2019.

ADDITIONAL TEST RESULTS (con't)									
	Harvey Run Road Area System BFMA			Tri-County Commerce Park System AWA					
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	N	1.89	(a)	N	0	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	N	2.3	(a)	N	No Detects	(a)	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	N	0.0303	(a)	N	0.024	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (ppb)	N	No Detects		N	4.1	a	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories

ADDITIONAL TEST RESULTS (con't)									
	Harvey Run Road Area System BFMA			Tri-County Commerce Park System AWA					
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.45	(a)	N	0.086	(a)	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits. Additive to promote strong teeth: discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nickel (ppb)	N	3.6	(a)	N	No Detects	(a)		NA	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from industrial factories
Dissolved Organic Carbon <sup>(b)</sup> (ppm)	N	3.10	2.24-4.55	N	2.07	1.4-3.97	NA	NA	Soil erosion, plants
SUVA <sup>(b)</sup> (ppm)	N	1.92	1.3-2.2	N	1.76	1.32-3.03	NA	NA	Method of Measuring organic matter
UV254 <sup>(b)</sup> (ppm)	N	5.8	4.15-6.98	N	3.85	1.94-12	NA	NA	Method of Measuring organic matter

**Footnotes:**

(a) Only one sample collected.

(b)SUVA – Specific Ultra Violet Absorbance at 254nm wavelengths. : A calculated indicator of organic carbon content of water; (DOC/UV254 x 100= ppm). These parameters may be used as an Alternate Compliance Criteria (ACC) method for determining TOC.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING BFMA				
Finished water (sampled in March, June, September, December 2018)				
Contaminant	Reporting Limit	Range Detected	Health Advisory Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Manganese (ppb)	0.400	1.16-2.28	50	Naturally occurring element

**System Violations in 2019:**

NSTMA had no violations in 2019.

BFMA had no violations in 2019.

AWA had no violations in 2019.

**Additional Testing**

In addition to the tests listed in the above tables, BFMA and AWA performed thousands of additional tests in their continuing efforts to provide all of its

customers (including NSTMA) with PADEP compliant drinking water. These additional tests include: Volatile Organic Compounds, Synthetic organic Compounds, pH, Alkalinity, Iron, Hardness, Odor, Color, total coliform and E. coli bacteria.

## **Health Information**

In order to ensure that tap water is drinkable, the EPA has set limits through regulations for certain contaminants in drinking water provided by public water systems. These MCLs are set at very low levels because of potential adverse health effects to the general public.

## **Contact Information**

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact the New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority office at (724) 774-2461 from 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Questions or comments regarding the New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority's drinking water are welcomed and are routinely addressed at the Authority's monthly meetings. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of every month in the Township Building at 233 Miller Road. Please feel free to participate in these meetings

## **Conclusion**

This report has been issued under the auspices of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations passed on August 17, 1998. We at the New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority will endeavor to continue providing you with clean, safe drinking water. We ask that all our customers help us protect our nation's water resources, by not polluting them, in order to preserve our way of life and our children's futures.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

-Use EPA Water Sense products to conserve water. For a listing go to [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

-Perform a dye test to see if your toilets are leaking (instructions follow). To check if a toilet is leaking, remove the cover from the tank, add food coloring until the water in the tank is a dark color. Wait 30 minutes (without using the toilet). If any of the dye has entered the bowl in that time, your toilet is leaking.

- Save 3% - 6% by using faucet aerators. Faucet aerators reduce the flow of water.

- Repair leaking faucets and toilets and replace with low flow plumbing fixtures. A faucet that drips once every second wastes about 10 gallons of water a day.

Water efficient means:

Toilets: 1.6 gallons per flush or less

Faucets: 2.5 gallons per minute or less

Showers: 2.5 gallons per minute or less

- Take short showers instead of baths. The average shower lasts 8 minutes using 24 gallons of water.

- Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth. Use a glass of water for rinsing your teeth. If you leave the faucet running you could use 4 gallons of water.

- When shaving, use a sink filled with rinse water. Do not let the faucet *flow*.

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks. Using the hose for 5 minutes uses 60 gallons of water.

-Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

-Water your lawn either in the morning or the evening, rather than the middle of the day, to help reduce loss of water due to evaporation. Do not water the street or sidewalk.

-Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.

- Water used in washing the car:  
At home in driveway – 116 gallons  
Self-serve car wash – 16.2 gallons  
Automatic car wash – about 38 gallons

- Plant indigenous species suited to your area and save as much as 54% of the water used to care for outdoor plants. Ask your local nursery for plant and grass species that require less water.

If all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water and more than \$18 billion dollars per year! Also, when we use water more efficiently, we reduce the need for costly water supply infrastructure investments and new wastewater treatment facilities.

-Mow your lawn with water retention in mind. Set mower blades on a high setting: 2-3 inch grass length as opposed to golf-course short, to provide natural ground shade and promote water retention by the soil.

-If you wash dishes by hand, do not leave the faucet flowing for rinsing. Instead, use a dish rack and spray device to rinse them. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water.