

**Presented By**  
**Beaver Borough**  
**Municipal Authority**

ANNUAL  
**WATER**  
**QUALITY**  
**REPORT**

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2017

## Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

The Beaver Borough Municipal Authority has taken great strides in 2017. Working with our customers we have replaced over 99% of the water meters in the system with “State of the Art” wirelessly read meters.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

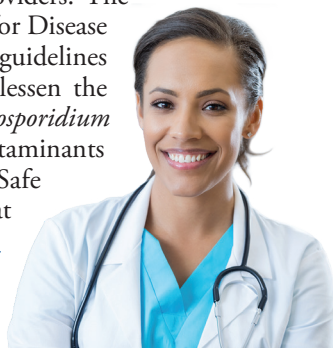
### Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and ask questions about your drinking water. The Municipal Authority meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Beaver Borough Municipal Building located at 469 3rd Street, Beaver, PA 15009.



### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



### Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and pump water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

The Beaver Borough Municipal Authority water treatment plant is supplied from five ground water wells located along the northern side of the Ohio river. The wells combine into a common header and water flowing from the common header is injected with gaseous chlorine before it enters an underground wet well. Gaseous chlorine is automatically dosed. Three vertical turbine pumps are used to distribute water to the Lions Lane storage tank and to the distribution system. The Authority is working hard to identify water leakage in the system and to make repairs to stop these leaks. Daily water production has been greatly reduced by these efforts.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and DEP prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

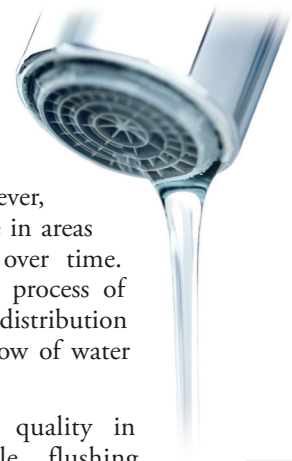
Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Beaver Borough Municipal Authority office at (724) 773-6705.



Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process.



## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment of the ground water supplying the Beaver Borough Municipal Authority water treatment plant was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The assessment has found that our source is potentially most susceptible to accidental spills from roadways, railroads, and nearby fuel storage facilities. Overall, our source has a moderate risk of significant contamination. Summary reports are available by writing to Beaver Borough at 469 Third Street, Beaver, PA 15009 and is available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (Keyword: "DEP source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies, and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review by calling the PADEP Southwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit, at (412) 442-4000.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



### BY THE NUMBERS

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S. **34 BILLION**

**1 MILLION** The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S. **135 BILLION**

**300 MILLION** The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

The age in years of the world's oldest water found in a mine at a depth of nearly two miles. **2 BILLION**

## Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures is caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order.

Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heat setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill.

Also keep in mind that a tap used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains, so if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the data tables shows only those substances that were detected between January 1 and December 31, 2017. Remember that detecting a substance does not necessarily mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Please note that the 2016 CCR was not mailed out to customers by the required DEP deadline last year. This was the Beaver Borough Municipal Authority's only violation in 2017.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.0991	0.0991–0.0991	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines [Distribution] (ppm)	2017	[4]	[4]	NA	0.56–0.94	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramines [Entry Point] <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	2017	MinRDL = 0.4	NA	NA	0.39–0.98	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2015	100	100	11.4	11.4–11.4	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2017	60	NA	4.1	4.1–4.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2017	10	10	4.95	4.73–5.31	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2017	80	NA	16	16–16	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2017	5	0	0.53	0.53–0.53	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners

### Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2016	1.3	1.3	0.167	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2016	15	0	15	3/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppm)	2017	0.00103	0.00103–0.00103	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppm)	2017	0.01	0.01–0.01	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (ppm)	2017	0.00498	0.00498–0.00498	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup> Even though the lowest level detected is below the minimum, it is not a violation since this low value did not occur for more than 4 hours.

<sup>2</sup> Action level not exceeded.

## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MinRDL (Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).