

**2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**From**  
**Tionesta Borough Water Supply (PWSID# 6270001)**

**Tionesta Borough is very pleased** to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We are happy to report that the system operated without violation during 2014. Our goal is, and will be, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The purpose of this report is to keep you informed about the water and services that we have delivered to you over the past year.

**If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility in general, please contact the borough manager Colleen M. Call at (814) 755-3502 or feel free to visit our regular meetings. Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM. in the borough office located at 631 Elm Street.**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

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**Is my water safe?**

Tionesta Borough routinely monitors contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. Your water met all applicable requirements during the 2014 calendar year. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

**Where does my water come from?**

Your water comes from three wells located within the Borough. Two of these wells are at our pump house located on the west side of Elm Street across from the Industrial Development Complex and the third is located at the IDC property on the east side of Elm Street, both at the northern end of the Borough. A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to agricultural pesticides and road deicing materials. Overall, our sources have little risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment & Protection webpage at (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/Subjects/SourceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>).

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP regional office. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Northwest Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 332-6340.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 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.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 Borough 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>.

**How can I get involved?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility in general, please contact the borough manager Colleen M. Call at (814) 755-3502 or feel free to visit one of our monthly meetings. **Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM. in the borough office located at 631 Elm Street.**



## WHY WATER CONSERVATION?

With population and industry growth come a greater thirst for water. Water is a limited resource that can quickly become scarce if we do not take measures to conserve and protect it.

**Keeping Water Plentiful:** Although we are surrounded by water, most is not drinkable. In fact, only 3% of the world's water is fresh water and of this 2/3 is stored in icecaps and glaciers. That leaves only 1% of the world's water available for drinking.

**Keeping Water Clean:** Conserving water is only half the battle. To ensure that our water needs will always be met, we must protect our water supplies against the constant threat of pollution.

**Everyone's Responsibility:** Working to protect our precious water supplies is critical. Read on to learn more about water and what can be done to protect and conserve it.

**Save Money:** By conserving, you can save on your water and utility bills, sewer and septic costs.

**Save Energy:** You'll save energy by reducing the amount of hot water you use and by saving electricity used to pump water.

**Save the Environment:** Conserving water helps ease the burden on conveyance, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities.

**Easy Saving Tip:** If your water heater is not insulated, an insulation blanket can help you save energy and money. Always follow installation instructions carefully!

### 4 EASY WAYS TO CONSERVE:

- Watch how much water you use when doing dishes, brushing your teeth, showering, and washing your car. Follow the easy tips to use less.

- Fix leaks, a faucet that drips can waste up to 3,280 gallons of water per year. Most leaks are easy to repair.

- Reuse water when you can. A bucket in the shower can catch water for plants and clean-up jobs.

- There are numerous water-saving devices on the market. Look for aerators, flow regulators, and displacement devices to make your home conservation-friendly.

**DOING DISHES:** When you wash dishes by hand, use wash and rinse basins rather than running water. Soak pots and pans before washing. Use minimal detergent so you don't have to rinse as much. If you use a dishwasher, do only full loads and avoid extra cycles.

**PREPARING FOOD:** Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator and wash foods in a basin of water, rather than using running water.

**WASHING UP:** Try a faucet aerator on your sink to reduce water use while maintaining flow. Take shallow baths. Keep showers short and use a low-flow showerhead. A flow restrictor lets you maintain the faucet setting and shut off water at the shower head while soaping or shampooing.

**THE TOILET:** Flush only when necessary. If your toilet is not a low-flow model, you can install a water-saving displacement device in the tank to reduce the amount of water needed to flush.

**WASHING CLOTHES:** Match your washer's water level to your load size. Repair any leaks from faucets, hose connections, or pipes.

**DRIVEWAYS, SIDEWALKS AND WALKWAYS:** Instead of the hose, use a broom or leaf blower to remove dead leaves and other debris.

**HOSES:** Repair all leaks and install a water-saving shutoff nozzle that can be adjusted to fit the task at hand.

**LAWNS & GARDENS:** Water during the morning or evening to avoid excess evaporation. Use mulch around shrubs to save moisture. Use drought-tolerant and native plants.

**THE POOL:** Watch the water level to avoid unnecessary spillage and use a cover to prevent excess evaporation.

**THE CAR:** Don't let the water run while washing your car. A shutoff nozzle on your hose will help.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants we detected that are applicable for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State allows us to monitor for certain 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 State Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

| Inorganic Contaminants            |                 |                                     |                             |         |        |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--|
| Contaminant (Unit of Measurement) | Violation (Y/N) | Highest Level Detected in Our Water | Range Detected in Our Water | MCLG    | MCL    | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| 1. Chlorine (ppm)                 | N               | 1.20                                | 0.6-1.20                    | 4 MDRLG | 4 MDRL | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| 2. Copper (ppm)                   | N               | 0.29 (a)                            | (a)                         | 1.3     | 1.3 AL | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| 3. Lead (ppb)                     | N               | 0 (a)                               | (a)                         | 0       | 15 AL  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits                                   |
| 4. Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)   | N               | 11.3                                | (b)                         | n/a     | 60     | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| 5. Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)    | N               | 26.8                                | (b)                         | n/a     | 80     | By-product of drinking water disinfection  |

- (a) Level detected value represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 5 samples taken. No samples exceeded the set action level.  
 (b) Only one test required. No range available.

### Data Table Key: Unit Descriptions

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| n/a | not applicable  |
| nd  | not detected  |
| ppm | parts per million, also known as milligrams per liter |
| ppb | parts per billion, also known as micrograms per liter |

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| AL    | Action Level (AL): 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.  |
| 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 contamination. |