

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF PORTAGE

2010 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien . Persons served may contact the authority to obtain translation assistance .

Quality on Tap

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2010 Water Quality Report

Portage Water Authority
606 Cambria Street
Portage, Pennsylvania 15946
(814) 736-9642
Public Water System ID: 4110027

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act, among other regulations and laws, safeguards the sources and treatment of drinking water. This Act requires that public water systems issue reports to their customers telling them where their water comes from

and what it contains.

We are pleased to provide this report to you, because as our customer you have the right to know the efforts we take to assure you have safe drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water and making sure it complies with state and federal standards.

It is encouraged that the owner of a property makes the report available to actual water users. If you are in need of additional copies of this report, please contact the Water Authority.

Your Water's Source?

The Portage Water Authority operates both the Martindale and Benscreek Water Treatment Plants. The Martindale Plant gets raw (untreated) water from the Martindale Reservoir. The Benscreek Plant takes water from an intake impoundment on Bens Creek. Two wells are also used to supplement the surface water sources. The map on Page 3 shows the Martindale and Benscreek Service Areas.

The Portage Water Authority has an interconnection to the Highland Sewer and Water Authority water system that may be used in case of an emergency.

Water System Improvements

In 2010, the Authority to date has installed 570 radio read water meters that identify problems, theft and leak detection in the home. This will decrease reading times and update the meters. We have also changed to one billing date per month. **Reminder** it is the customers responsibility to maintain their shut off in the residence.

In 2010, the Authority replaced and looped the 500 block of Farren St, Orchard St, Prospect St, increasing flow and eliminating dead ends. We replaced 2' cast iron with 6" ductile pipe. A project was started in Nov 2010 on Dusty Ln to

install 2" pvc pipe to keep pressure and volume to these customers. The Portage Water Auth has initiated design on a project to install a new transmission line from the Martindale Plant to Rd's Tavern area. A new line will also be put up over the hill to Allen St and will service all streets to Springhill Rd and provide new hydrants.

Water Quality Data

The Portage Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on Page 2 shows the contaminants detected in your water between January 1 and December 31, 2010 . Some of the data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the table. The table only shows those contaminants that were found in the finished (treated) water. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms the following definitions are provided:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The "Goal" (MCGL) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which no known or expected health risks exist. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to

<Page 2 January 2011		Detected Contaminants Table				2010 Water Quality Report	
Regulated Contaminant	Unit	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum (MCL)	Detected Level (MAX)		Likely Source	Violation ?
				M (1)	B (1)		
Barium (2003)	ppm	2	2	0.073 (3)	0.14 (3)	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Beta Emitters (2003)	pCi/L	0	50	1.2	0.4	Decay of natural & man-made deposits	No
Alpha Emitters (2003)	pCi/L	0	15	0.51	0.37	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Combined Radium (2003)	pCi/L	0	5	0.4	0.17	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Uranium (2003)	pCi/L	0	30	0.157	0.084	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	N/A	80	33 (8)	10 (8)	By product of drinking water Chlorination	No
Haloacetic Acids (Haa5)	ppb	N/A	60	4 (8)	3 (8)	By product of drinking water Chlorination	No
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	N/A	TT (5)	0.75 (6) 0-1.40 (7)	0.57 (6) 0-1.05 (7)	Naturally present in the environment	No
Turbidity	Ntu %	0	1.0 (1) 95%<0.3(1)	0.08 (8) 100% (9)	0.07 (8) 100% (9)	Soil runoff	No
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG= 4	MRDL=4	1.61 (8) 0.71-1.61	1.48 (8) 0.53-1.48	Water additive for disinfection	No
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	1.2 (6)	1.2 (6)	Runoff from fertilizer use	No
Arsenic	ppb	50	0.05	0 (1)	0 (1)	Natural deposits	No
Lead	ppb	0	15	0.00030 (1)	0.00030 (1)	Corrosion of house plumbing	No
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.0030 (1)	0.0050 (1)	Corrosion of house plumbing	No
Entry point chlorine	Minimum chlorine	Lowest Level	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Sources of contamination	Violation Y/N
Chlorine M-date	0.2	0.9	0.9 - 1.70	ppm	5/7/10	Water additive to control microbes	No M - Date
Chlorine B-creek	0.2	0.5	0.5 - 1.47	ppm	12/13/10		No B-creek

(1) M- Martindale B- Benscreek (2) 90th Percentile results (3) Monitored once every 9 years (No range) (4) No range (5) TT - Treatment Technique (6) Average value (7) Range (8) Highest value reported (9) Lowest monthly % of samples meeting require. Health effects

To understand the possible health effects of regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink approximately one half gallon of water containing approximately one half gallon of water containing contaminants at their MCL every day for 70 years to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the associated health effects.

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 micro Contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) The level of 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 micro contamination.

Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$ 10,000.

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

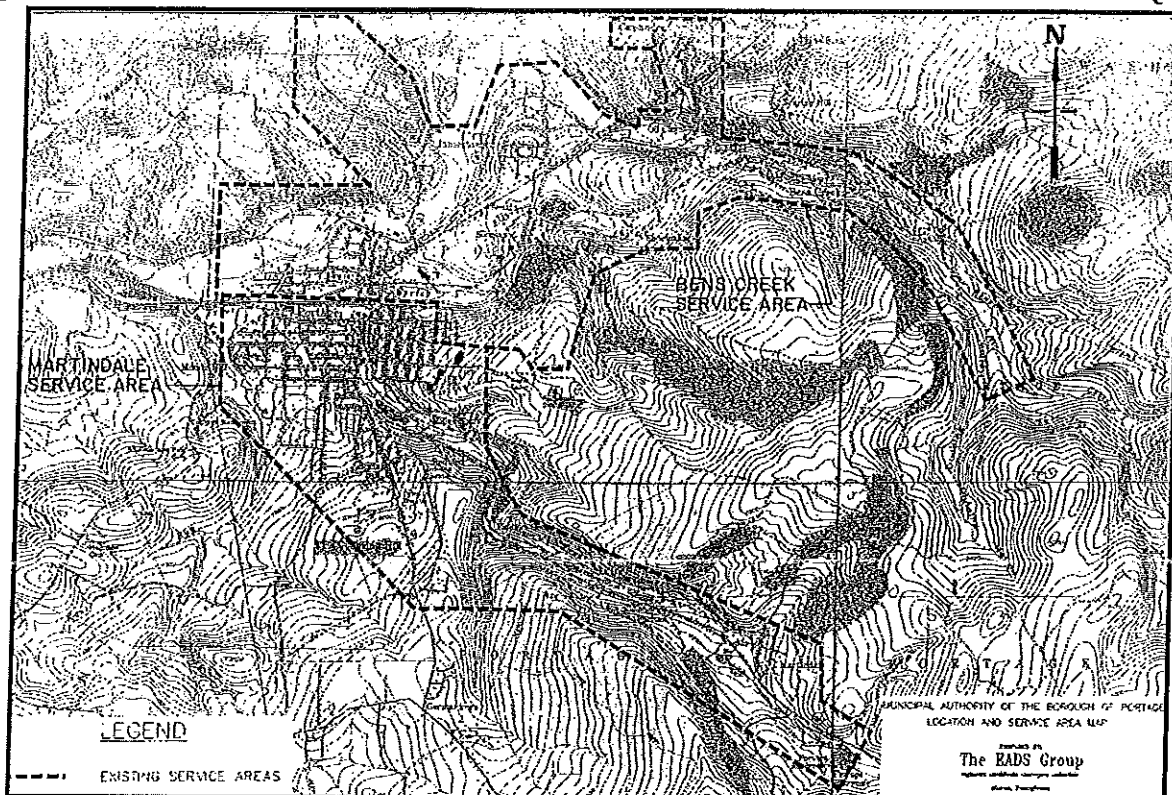
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Measure of radioactivity in water

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.

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

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

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.



Partnership for Safe Water

The Portage Water Authority continues to take part in the Partnership for Safe Water program. The goal of the program is to help achieve operational excellence in water treatment through self-assessment and a peer-review of the water system. By joining the Partnership, the Authority has the opportunity to get advice and technical assistance from water experts around the country to help fine-tune water treatment processes and assure even higher quality drinking water.

Cross-Connection Ordinance

The Authority approved and adopted a Cross-Connection Control ordinance which went into effect beginning April 2003. This is a federal and state requirement. The program involves several steps that will be taken over a 5 year period to assess and make improvements in the system if necessary to decrease the chances of our water supply becoming contaminated through a Cross-Connection. A Cross-Connection is either a direct or an indirect

connection to a public water system through which contamination could enter the system. Contamination could include any used water, industrial fluids, gas or substances other than the intended drinking water.

System Security

The Authority has an agreement with the Portage Boro police dept to provide police protection and to patrol all water authority property.

A Vulnerability Assessment was completed to help the Authority determine areas of the system and their operations that can be improved to decrease the chances of being compromised by vandalism or a terrorist attack. One of the best and least costly measures that can be taken is through the vigilance and awareness of our customers. If you become aware of or see any suspicious activity involving our water system and facilities, please contact the proper authorities.

Authority employees wear a standard "uniform" consisting of a shirt with name tag and the "Portage Water Authority" emblem affixed to the front of the shirt. The employees also have I.D. cards. If approached by an individual claiming to be a Portage Water Authority employee, feel free to ask the person for their I.D. card and contact the Authority office to confirm their

identity. Office # 814- 736- 9642 or Cell # 814- 241- 7150

Source Water Protection Plan

In 2010, a source water protection plan was established by a steering committee consisting of a representative from Portage Boro, Township, Planning Commission School district, Water Authority and the Portage Water Authority Forester and a DEP representative. The protection plan identifies possible problems and possible threats near and around the water shed and the reservoir.

Radon Monitoring

Radiation is a natural part of the environment in which we live. Most of our exposure to natural radiation is from radon gas. Radon can cause cancer when inhaled over many years. The cancer risk from radon in drinking water is due mostly to breathing in the particles released from the water into the air and not actually drinking the water. The cancer risk is greater for smokers. Most radon in drinking water is from groundwater sources. Surface waters tend to have lower radon levels. EPA does not currently regulate radon in drinking water.

In 1992 and 1994 radon was found in the groundwater sources used by Portage Water Authority. Monitoring completed in July of

2000 resulted in no detections of radon in the water supply.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microorganism commonly found in rivers and lakes. It is highly resistant to disinfection. *Cryptosporidium* can cause outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness (diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramps). People with severely weakened immune systems are likely to have more severe and persistent symptoms than healthy people.

Other Contaminants

Coliform is a naturally occurring bacteria found in raw water sources. Sampling for Total Coliform resulted in no positive samples (no coliform bacteria were found). Sampling for Fecal Coliform, bacteria from human or animal waste, also resulted in no positive samples. **Lead:** 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 home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Public Involvement

The Portage Water Authority holds monthly meetings that the public is welcome to attend. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2011 are as follow:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| MAY 5 th | April 7 th |
| JUNE 9 th | September 8 th |
| JULY 7 th | October 6 th |
| August 4 th | November 10 th |
| | December 8 th |

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Also, meeting dates and times are posted in the Portage Water Authority's Office at 606 Cambria Street in Portage.

If you have any questions regarding this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ron Cadwallader Jr, Manager at 814-736-9642.

For Your 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, sometimes, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of human activity.

Contaminants can be present in source water including:

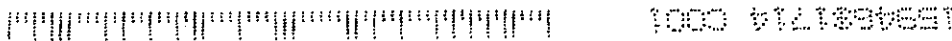
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides 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.

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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

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).

1. EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
CDC - Center for Disease Control.



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