

## 2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

**PWSID #:** 4560042

**NAME:** Borough of Somerset

*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.)*

### **WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Larry Kowatch, Superintendent and Chief Operator at (814) 445-2111. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at the *Somerset Borough Municipal Building*. Council meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. Municipal Water Authority meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. Visit the website: [somerestborough.com](http://somerestborough.com) or call (814) 443-2661 for more information.

### **SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name-Type-Location)

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Well #1 and Well #2 Well water Shafer Run Road, Somerset, PA 15501

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Well #3 Well water 278 Beck Road, Somerset, PA 15501

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Well #7, #8, #9 Well water 3518 Coxes Creek Road, Somerset, PA 15501

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The Borough of Somerset purchases water from the *Somerset County General Authority Water System*, please review their "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" for additional information.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to Transportation Corridors, Junk Yard / Auto Repair Shop and Dairy Farms. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Source Water Assessment & Protection web page* at (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>). On review of the document, note that the Source Water Assessment includes surface water from the Laurel Hill Creek. The Borough of Somerset no longer has a permit to use the Laurel Hill Creek's surface water as a source. Also, Somerset Borough's water production is limited to only six well water sources not eight. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Ebsburg Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 472-1921.

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).

## **MONITORING YOUR WATER:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013. 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:**

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

*EP* – Entry point from treatment plant to the distribution system. EP 101 = Laurel Hill Filtration Plant  
EP 103 = Coxes Creek Treatment Plant

*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.

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

*Plant 300* – Laurel Hill Filtration Plant

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

*Mrem/year* = millirems 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 (mg/L)

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

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

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
<b>Contaminant</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 EP 101	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.20	1.94 – 2.20	ppm	2013	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine EP 103	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.23	1.67 – 2.23	ppm	2013	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride EP 101	2*	4	0.60	-	ppm	2013	N	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
TOC plant 300	TT	NA	0	0	ppm	2013	N	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate EP 101	10	10	.29	-	ppm	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrate EP 103	10	10	0	-	ppm	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrite EP 101	1	1	0	-	ppm	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Nitrate EP 103	1	1	0	-	ppm	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Arsenic EP 101	10	0	0	-	ppm	2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
Arsenic EP 103	10	0	0	-	ppm	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
HAA5	60	NA	36	0 - 43	ppb	2013	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	80	NA	36	4 - 56	ppb	2013	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
<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 Distribution as Total Chlorine	.40	1.20	1.20 – 2.60	ppm	2013	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>90<sup>th</sup> 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>
Lead	15	.005	None exceeded	ppb	15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	None exceeded	ppm	15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

<b>Microbial</b>					
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest # or % of Positive Samples</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: • More than 1 positive monthly sample	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

**VIOLATIONS CONCERNING HEALTH EFFECTS:**

None "No MCL's or Treatment Techniques were exceeded" in any location of the CCR.

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**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

None

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**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, 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 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 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 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 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. The Borough of Somerset 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>.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

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2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 4560009 NAME: Somerset County General Authority

*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.)

**WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Chris L. Meyer, Somerset County Water Manager at (814) 629-9460. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 PM.

**SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name-Type-Location)

The Quemahoning Dam, which is a surface water source, loacated at 476 Quemahoning Dam Road, Hollsopple, PA 15935 is our only source of water, We purchase bulk raw water from the Cambria-Somerset Authority and process the raw water through our treatment plant located at 458 Mastillo Road, Hollsopple, PA 15935.

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to [insert potential *Sources of Contamination* listed in your *Source Water Assessment Summary*]. Overall, our source(s) has/have [little, moderate, high] risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the *Source Water Assessment & Protection web page* at (<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Cambria Office Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (814) 472-1800.

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

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**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium (IOC)	2	2	.033	.005-0.01	mg/L	2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	.86	.02-.05	mg/L	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use
Haloacetic Acids (Five)	60	N/A	.0452	0-62	ppb	2013	N	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes	80	N/A	.0358	18-88	ppb	2013	N	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.71	0.2 -3.0	mg/L	2013	N	By-products of drinking water chlorination

Nitrite	1	1	<0.05	.02-.05	mg/L	2013	N	Runoff from fertilizer use

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.2	1.25	0.5 -1.0	ppm	9-20-13	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

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

<b>Microbial</b>						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect <40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 1 positive monthly sample</li> </ul> For systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5% of monthly samples are positive</li> </ul>	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.	
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste	

<b>Turbidity</b>						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.1	9/6/13	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤0.3 NTU		100%	9/6/13	N	



<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>					
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Range of % Removal Required</b>	<b>Range of percent removal achieved</b>	<b>Number of quarters out of compliance</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
TOC	25-35%	22-43%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

**HEALTH EFFECTS:**

None

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**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

None

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**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

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**OTHER INFORMATION:**

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