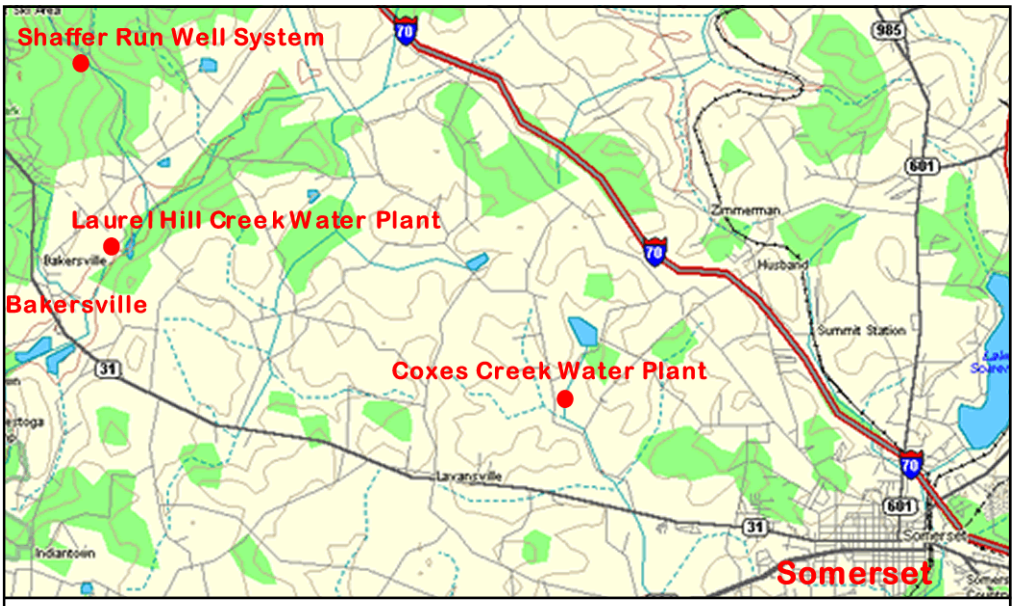
Municipal Authority
of the Borough of Somerset

2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



SOURCE LOCATIONS

Facility #1

The main source of water is **Laurel Hill Creek** located in Jefferson Township .5 miles north of Bakersville on the Bakersville/Edie Road .

Facility #2

The newest system is the **Shaffer Run** Well System. Two wells are located on 650 acres of land owned by the Authority. It is .8 Miles from Rt. 31 on the Bakersville/Edie Road to Shaffer Run Road. Turn left on Shaffer Run Road and go approximately .3 miles to the plant.

Facility #3

Coxes Creek Water Plant is the second source of water available to the system. It is located 3 miles West of Somerset, 1.5 miles North of Rt. 31 North on Coxes Creek Road.

What you can do to help conserve water!

1. Check inside faucets for leaks. Even a small drip can waste a lot of water.
2. Keep showers to 5 minutes or less in length.
3. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or washing your hands.
4. Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge, then you won't waste water trying to cool it.
5. Use dishwashers and clothes washers for full loads only.
6. Use a broom to sweep your driveway, garage, or sidewalk instead of using water.
7. Use a bucket of water to wash your car. Then rinse it quickly with the hose.
8. Be careful to water the lawn and not the sidewalk or street. Also, water your lawn at night or early morning to avoid evaporation.
9. Check outside hoses, faucets, and automatic sprinklers for leaks.
10. Use water **only** when you need it. **Always** remember to turn it off when finished.
11. Recycle used water for plants and shrubbery.
12. Cover swimming pool when not in use. Don't fill too high, the water will splash out.

USE WATER WISELY!

Water Quality Data

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

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.

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- 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- The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
2. **Total Coliform Bacteria**	N	0.0		0	Presence of coliform bact. in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
3. **Turbidity (ntu)**	N	0.235 7/14/04	(b)	100%	TT	Soil runoff

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
10. **Barium (ppm)**	N	0.22 2000	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion at natural deposits.
16. **Fluoride (ppm)**	N	1.24 2004	(a)	4	4	Erosion at natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
19. **Nitrate** (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	N	0.58 2003	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
17. **Lead** (ppb)	N	0 2004	(c)	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
14. **Copper** (mg/l)	N	0.089 2004	(c)	1	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Footnotes:

(a) Only one sample required.

(b) The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits specified in 141.73. All samples met the turbidity limits.

(c) None of the 20 samples we collected exceeded the action level.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.
If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings.

- Somerset Borough Council meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7:30 PM.
- Somerset Municipal Water Authority meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM.

For additional information or questions please call **443-2661**.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report - 2004

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources are **Laurel Hill Creek, Shaffer Run Wells, and the Coxes Creek Wells.**

Sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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 for 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

* Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic system, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
* Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 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.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

NITRATE: Nitrate in drinking at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High Nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

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 the material used in your homes plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your homes 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 or by calling (1-800-426-4791).

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