



# Water Quality Report 2015



**NWWA**  
North Wales Water Authority  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE...

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

This report includes information about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares with the standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. You are being provided a copy of this report in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Landlords, businesses, schools and other property owners are strongly encouraged to share this water quality report with their tenants and employees.

For free additional copies or more information about your water and this report, call the North Wales Water Authority at 215-699-4836.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

The North Wales Water Authority takes great pride in delivering water of the highest quality to our customers. We are proud to report that 2015 marked the 20th consecutive year the Authority exceeded all state and federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

With stories of drinking water contamination dominating the news toward the end of 2015, NWWA customers can rest assured that their water supply is safer than it has ever been. The Authority monitors for lead in conjunction with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule administered by the state of Pennsylvania. Lead has never been detected at any of the monitored sources, the distribution system or in the homes of customers.

It is important to us that you are informed about your drinking water quality. If you would like to view prior year copies of our Water Quality Reports or learn more about your water, how it is treated, and our monitoring process, please visit our website at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com).

If you'd like to learn more about NWWA, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings. The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Authority office at 200 W. Walnut St., in North Wales.

### YOUR WATER SOURCE

Currently, 93% of our water comes from the Delaware River and 7% comes from groundwater sources. The water coming from the Delaware River is treated at Forest Park Water, a water treatment facility that is jointly owned by North Wales and North Penn Water Authorities. Forest Park Water consists of a 96 million gallon per day raw water pumping station on the Delaware River at Point Pleasant and transmission mains which discharge the Delaware River water into the North Branch of the Neshaminy Creek. Once discharged, the water

flows down the Neshaminy Creek through Lake Galena. The water released from Lake Galena flows downstream to the Forest Park Water treatment plant located in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. From the treatment plant, the North Wales and North Penn Water Authorities individually take their share of the treated supply for distribution within their respective service areas.

### YOUR WATER QUALITY

Since the Authority operates its own distribution system, as well as being joint owner of the Forest Park Water (FPW) facilities, sampling under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is conducted independently by both utilities in accordance with appropriate requirements. This ensures that the Authority takes all distribution samples for which it is responsible and Forest Park Water takes all samples related to a surface water treatment facility. To some extent this arrangement results in duplication of testing, but ensures an added measure of quality control. Forest Park Water is among the finest "state-of-the-art" facilities in the United States. In 2007 FPW became one of the first and largest water treatments plants to complete a complex conversion from traditional media filters to technologically advanced membrane filtration. Membranes provide a more effective barrier against the passage of potentially harmful pathogens, such as giardia and cryptosporidium. The aesthetic quality of the water is enhanced by ozonation followed by flow through Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) media. As a result naturally occurring organic compounds are destroyed by ozone oxidation and removed by carbon adsorption. This treatment process ensures that our customers are receiving the finest quality drinking water available today from any surface water treatment plant in the United States.

### MONITORING YOUR WATER

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be in water provided by public water systems. Food & Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The North Wales Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. The tables in this report show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. 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.

Every year the Authority receives a new set of monitoring requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) based on our previous results. Individual and groups of contaminants may be required to be monitored continually, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. Currently, the Authority monitors for over 100 contaminants at ten entry points and throughout the distribution system. For a complete listing of all the contaminants that we test for, please visit our website at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com).

## TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

NWWA PWS ID# 1460048 (Unless otherwise noted, all monitoring was conducted in 2015)

Regulated Contaminants	Violations	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0	N/A	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E.coli Bacteria	No	0	N/A	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity (NTU)	No	0.02	0.02-0.04	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Raw water monitoring for Giardia and Cryptosporidium was performed monthly throughout 2015. Giardia and Cryptosporidium were not detected in any samples.						
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper <sup>1</sup> (ppm) 6/2013	No	0.5419 <sup>1</sup>	0.0336-0.5841	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead <sup>1</sup> (ppb) 6/2013	No	0 <sup>1</sup>	0-0.0106	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	No	2.168	0-3.96	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (ppb)	No	0.007	0-0.07	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder
Arsenic (ppb)	No	0.09	0-0.5	0	0	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	No	0.266	0.020-0.508	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal foundries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	No	0.08	0-0.2	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (free) (ppb)	No	0.2	0-1.0	200	200	Discharge from steel and metal factories, discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha (adjusted) (pCi/L)	No	2.73	0-7.41	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (ug/L)	No	1.95	0-9.45	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L) (226+228)	No	.576	0-2.67	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>						
Chlorine residual (mg/L)	No	.485	0.10-1.32	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>3</sup>	Water additive used for disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	No	25.98	8.59-51.10	0	80	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	No	7.40	2.77-16.10	0	60	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Bromate (ppb)	No	1.9	1.4-2.8	0	10	By-products of drinking water disinfection
<sup>1</sup> Naturally occurring levels of lead and copper in the source water are non-detectable. This table represents the level detected in the 90th percentile of homes monitored in accordance with the US-EPA Lead and Copper Rule. None of the homes monitored exceeded the Action Level (AL). <sup>2</sup> Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) <sup>3</sup> Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)						

Unregulated Contaminants	Level Detected	Range	Environmental Sources of Contamination
Chlorate (ppb)	126	93-190	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant, disinfection byproduct; and used in the production of chlorine dioxide.
Chromium-6 (ppb)	0.04	0-0.07	Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; chromium-3 or -6 are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning and wood preservation.
Molybdenum (ppb)	1.0	0-1.4	Naturally occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used to form molybdenum trioxide used as a chemical reagent.
Strontium (ppb)	113	93-130	Naturally occurring element; historically, commercial use of Strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray televisions to block x-ray emissions.
Vanadium (ppb)	0.1	0-0.3	Naturally occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst.

Data presented in the above table is from 2015 monitoring performed in accordance with the US-EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule-3.

## TABLE DEFINITIONS

Our water quality table contains terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions may help you better understand the table.

**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.

**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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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 (ug/L)** - 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)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

## SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER:

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. In addition, water can pick up 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, 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 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

However, water treatment significantly reduces the level of these substances in drinking water

## SHOULD I 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. 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 or visit the EPA Web site: [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water).

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. North Wales Water Authority 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The North Wales Water Authority maintains a list of customers who have an essential need for an uninterrupted supply of water (such as in dialysis treatments). If you have health conditions that require a continual supply of water in your home, please contact our Water Quality Department at 215-699-4836.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT MY DRINKING WATER?

More information may be obtained from the following:

**Environmental Protection Agency**  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791  
[www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water)

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulations  
717-772-4018  
[www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

**American Water Works Association**  
1-800-926-7337  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

