

# 2019 Consumer Confidence Report



298 Main Street, PO Box 458

Schwenksville, PA 19473

610-287-7772

## 2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 1460042 NAME: Schwenksville Borough 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 Matthew McVaugh at [610-287-7772](tel:610-287-7772) or [schwenksvillebaws@gmail.com](mailto:schwenksvillebaws@gmail.com). We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held at 7pm, the second Wednesday of each month, in the Dr. M. Donald Markley building, 298 Main Street, Schwenksville.

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

Our water source(s) are five (5) Municipal wells located throughout Schwenksville Borough and Lower Frederick Township, and Interconnections with Aqua PA and The North Penn Water Authority. Both the Aqua PA and The North Penn Water Authority Consumer Confidence report are available at <http://www.sbawspa.org/annual-water-quality.html>

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) are potentially most susceptible to volatile organic compounds. Schwenksville's wells were determined to be most susceptible to contamination from transport corridors and agricultural activities ("A" ratings). Potential pollutants used in residential areas and at auto repair shops also pose a high threat to these wells ("B" ratings). The other potential contaminants in the protection area received "C" and "E" protection ratings. Although these potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) have lower protection priorities, the cumulative effect of the PSOCs on the systems wells should be taken into consideration.

A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: [www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045). 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 Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (484)250-5900.

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)

### **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 storm water 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 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.

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).

### **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, 2019. 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. Not all items are required to be sampled every year according to PA DEP regulations. Items are shown with the most recent year of sampling by the SBA and the 2019 sampling.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

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

*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.

**Mrem/year** = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

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

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MC LG</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>
Arsenic	10	0	11	0 - 11	ppb	2019	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2	2	.4	0 - 0.12	ppm	2018	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	10	N/A	ppb	2018	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines.
Thallium	2	.5	2	1-2	ppb	2018	N	Leaching from ore-processing sites. Discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories
Bromo-dichloro methane	80	80	2.3	NA	ppm	2019	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	1.16	N/A	ppb	2019	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalo methanes	80	N/A	7.02	N/A	ppb	2019	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Iron	300	N/A	30	0 - 30	ppm	2019	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Dichloroacetic acid	60	60	1.0	N/A	ppb	2019	N	By product of drinking water disinfection
Gross Alpha	15	15	11.8	5-11.8	pCi/L	2017	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226	5	5	.24	N/A	pCi/L	2017	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	5	5	1.03	N/A	pCi/L	2018	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine-distribution	4	4	1.56	.97-1.56	ppm	2019	N	Water additive to control microbes
Combined Uranium	30	0	1.9	N/A	ug/L	2019	N	Erosion of natural deposits

\*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 (EP 101)	0.4	0	0 - 2.21	ppm	2019	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (EP 102)	0.40	.01	.01 - 1.82	ppm	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (EP 103)	0.40	0	0 - 2.03	ppm	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (EP 104)	0.40	0	0 - 2.02	ppm	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (EP 106)	0.40	0	0 - 2.27	ppm	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Some of these sample residuals appear to be below the Minimum Disinfectant Residual due to monthly changing of buffers, when the chlorine analyzer is cleaned. The residual then rises above the minimum within the 4 hour timeframe established by DEP regulations.

<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	0	0.6	ppb	0 of 24	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	.281	ppm	0 of 24	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

### **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. Schwenksville Borough 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

GROUNDWATER RULE FAIL TO MONITOR OR REPORT

02/01/19 Due to clerical error Chlorine residual reports from Entry Point 102 were reported to DEP late

GROUNDWATER RULE FAIL TO MONITOR OR REPORT

09/01/19 Due to clerical error Chlorine residual reports from Entry Point 106 were reported to DEP late

The Schwenksville Borough Authority thanks you for the opportunity of providing your family with cost effective, quality water. The Authority is proud of the outstanding water and service it provides to its customers by our State licensed water works operators. Manager Michael Sullivan wishes to assure you that the Board of Directors has taken the necessary steps to guarantee a safe and plentiful water supply for you, well into the future. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.