

**2013**  
**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG**

PWS ID # 3540024



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.)*

We are very pleased to provide you with the **2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide to you a dependable and adequate supply of drinking water.

#### **Source(s) of Water:**

The Borough of Orwigsburg has four wells which are all located within the Borough. Water is withdrawn from these wells accordingly based on water quality and demand.

#### **Water System Information:**

We at the Orwigsburg Borough work around the clock to bring top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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 Orwigsburg Borough Hall at 570-366-3101, Monday-Friday 9:30 AM to 4:45 PM. 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 Orwigsburg Borough Hall, the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 PM.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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.

*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.

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

*pCi/L* = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)      *ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

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

**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
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	0.87	0.29-0.87	ppm	2013	N	Water additive used to control microbes. Distribution disinfectant level reported as highest monthly average and range.
Barium	2	2	0.011	0.011	ppm	04/18/12	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N/A	N/A	0.6	0.6	ppb	04/18/12	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Thallium	2	0.5	0.04	0.04	ppb	04/18/12	N	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug facilities
Haloacetic Acids	60	N/A	6.08	6.08	ppb	8/14/13	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes	80	N/A	21.5	21.5	ppb	8/14/13	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Combined Uranium	20	20	0.013	0.013	pCi/L	10/10/12	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226	5	N/A	0.222	0.222	pCi/L	10/10/12	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	5	N/A	0.371	0.371	pCi/L	10/10/12	N	Erosion of natural deposits

<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	0.25	0.27	0.27-1.29	ppm	2013	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	0.82	ppb	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.142	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.

### Health Effects:

We are proud that all of our water quality parameters have met or surpassed all State and Federal Requirements. IN 2013 NO MCL'S OR TREATMENT TECHNIQUES WERE EXCEEDED. 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.

### 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 Orwigsburg 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:**

#### Water Conservation Tips

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for the water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- Do not use running water to thaw frozen meat or frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or for cleaning around your home.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, so that every drop goes down you not the drain.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.

- If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead.
- When you shop for a new appliance, consider one offering cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy-efficient than older appliances.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.

**We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Orwigsburg Borough Hall at 570-366-3101.**