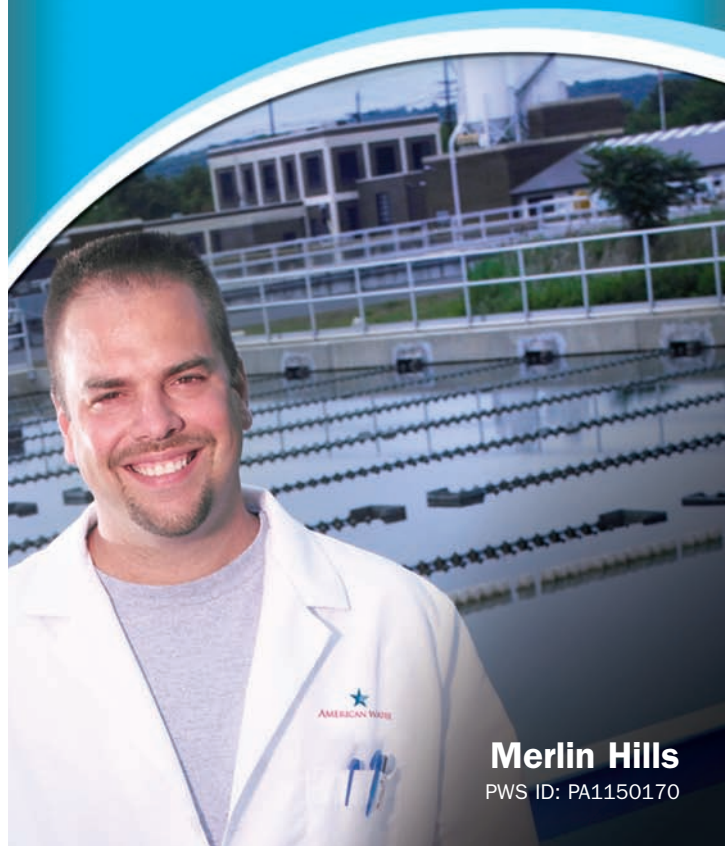


2008 Annual Water Quality Report



Merlin Hills
PWS ID: PA1150170

A Message from Kathy Pape, President

As a trusted leader in the industry, Pennsylvania American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing information with customers about the quality of the water service we provide.

One way we do this is by providing annual reports with the results of the tests that we perform on the water delivered to your home. Please review this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which outlines information that is applicable to your local water system for tests completed through December 2008. You'll find that we provide water that surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.

Just as important, Pennsylvania American Water makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities, so that we can deliver quality water directly to your tap 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our customers are our top priority, and we are committed to providing you with the highest quality drinking water and service possible now and in the years to come. In addition to this written report, you can view information about Pennsylvania American Water and your water system on our website at www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com. For more information or if you have any questions about this report, please contact Pennsylvania American Water's Customer Service Center at (800) 565-7292.

Sincerely,



Our Mark of Excellence

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada.

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2008. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As regulations and drinking water standards change, it is our commitment to you to incorporate these changes system-wide in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, while maintaining our objective of providing quality drinking water at an affordable price.

We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the need of all our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please feel free to call our Customer Service Department at 800-565-7292.

Source Water Information

Well #1 is the sole source of supply for the Merlin Hills water system. This well produces an average daily water flow of 90,000 gallons to the system. This water supply is distributed to residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Protecting Your Water Source

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) and Pennsylvania American Water (PAW) is working on an assessment for the drinking water sources for the Merlin Hills system. Public meetings will be announced before the report is issued.

When complete, the Source Water Assessment may be viewed by calling the local office of the Pennsylvania DEP at 484-250-5900. PAW encourages you to take an active part in protecting your water supply by participating in activities as they occur in your local area.

Other Water Quality Parameters of Interest Is there lead in your water?

Although we regularly test lead levels in your drinking water, it is possible that lead and/or copper levels at your home are higher because of materials used in your plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated levels, run your faucet for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your water; use cold water for cooking, drinking, or making baby formula; use low lead-containing faucets; and when replacing or working on pipes, use lead-free solder. Lead-based solders are illegal in Pennsylvania. PAW remains in full compliance with all of the requirements dealing with lead in drinking water.

How hard is your water?

Hardness is a measure of the concentration of two minerals naturally present in water – calcium and magnesium. High hardness levels cause soap not to foam as easily as it would at lower levels. Historically hardness levels range from 150 ppm to 158 ppm, or 8.8 to 9.2 grains per gallon of water.

How much sodium is in your water?

The sodium level is approximately 15 ppm.

What is the pH (acidity) range of your water?

Water in the distribution system averages 7.8 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral, neither acidic nor basic.

Is there fluoride in your water?

PAW does not add fluoride to your water supply.

How to Contact Us

Additional copies of this report can be obtained by calling our Customer Service Department at 1-800-565-7292. Electronic copies of this document can be obtained by visiting our website, www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com, selecting the 'Ensuring Water Quality' tab, then selecting 'Water Quality Reports' and choosing the report for your service area. Added information can be gathered by calling our Customer Service Department or by viewing the following information on the Internet:

Pennsylvania American Water

www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.state.pa.us

United States Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/safewater

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

American Water Works Association

www.awwa.org

Water Quality Statement

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2008.

The Pennsylvania DEP allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of the contaminants does not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania DEP, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of each substance was present in the water.

Water Quality Results

Regulated Substances - Measured on the Water Leaving the Well Station								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Average Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
Barium (ppm)	2006	2	2	0.027	SS	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	2008	10	10	5.68	5.59 - 5.76	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	
Bacterial Results - Measured from Merlin Hills Distribution System								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Number of Positive Samples	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source		
Total Coliform (number of positive samples)	2008	1 positive sample in month	Zero bacteria	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment		
Lead and Copper - Tap Water Test Results from Merlin Hills Distribution System								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Samples	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	0	10	6	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	1.3	10	0.70	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Other Regulated Compounds - Measured from Water in Merlin Hills Distribution System								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG/MRDL	Results	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2006	15	0	0.143	-0.177 - 0.143	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm) *	2008	4	4	0.70	0.3 - 0.7	Yes	Added as a disinfectant to the treatment process	
* MRDL (maximum residual disinfectant level) applies.								
Non-Regulated Substances - Measured on the Water Leaving the Well Station								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Highest Level Detected	Range Low - High	Typical Source				
Radon (pCi/L)	2007	233	163 - 233	Naturally occurring in the environment				

How to Read This Table

Starting with a Substance, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2008 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (goal may be set lower than what is allowed). **Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** shows the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** shows where the substance usually originates.

Non-regulated substances are measured, but maximum allowed contaminant levels have not been established by the government. These contaminants are shown for your information.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

- **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 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 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.
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detected
- **NS:** No standard
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.
- **SS:** Single sample
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **%:** means percent
- **>:** means greater than.
- **<:** means less than.

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Pennsylvania American Water's treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern and the processes are controlled to provide maximum protection against microbial and viral pathogens which could be naturally present in surface and groundwater. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 may 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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 may 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 also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water during showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering your home through soil, radon entering the home from tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, have the air in your home tested. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if

the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call the DEP State Radon Division Hotline at 800-237-2366 or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800) SOS-RADON.

Nitrates

Nitrate in drinking water 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.



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