

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Ridglea Water System

### 2009

We're pleased to present to you this year's Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report for the Ridglea Water System. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of 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 source is from two wells located approximately 375 feet south of the intersection of Route 23 and Stauffer Road.

We are pleased to report that the drinking water supplied to the residents of Ridglea is safe and met all of the federal and state water quality requirements throughout 2009.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mildred Donnell (610-469-0444)**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

**The Ridglea Water System** is routinely monitored for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2009. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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

*n/a* – not applicable

*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 (µg/l)* – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Pci/l* – picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - (mandatory language) The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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* - (mandatory language) The “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s 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.

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

<b>SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA TESTED IN 2009</b>					
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>					
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	MCL	MGLG	# of positive samples	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Total Coliform	No	1 positive monthly sample	0	0	Naturally present in environment
<b>Disinfectants</b>					
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	MRDLG	MRDL	# of positive samples	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Chlorine (mg/l)	No	4	4	0	Water additive used to control microbes

**SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA TESTED IN 2009**

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Arsenic (mg/l)	No	0.0047	(a)	0	AL=0.01	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
2. Barium (mg/l)	No	0.082	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
3. Fluoride (mg/l)	No	0.14	(a)	2	2	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
4. Nickel (mg/l)	No	0.0099	(a)	0.1	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits; by-product of various industrial processes
5. Nitrate as Nitrogen (mg/l)	No	0.28	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant (Unit of measurement)	Level Detected 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
6. Lead (mg/l)	0.00489	0 sites above AL out of 10 sites sampled	0	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
7. Copper (mg/l)	0.416	0 sites above AL out of 10 sites sampled	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Potential Health Effects:

- (1) **Arsenic:** Skin damage or problems with circulatory systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.
- (2) **Barium:** Increase in blood pressure.
- (3) **Fluoride:** Bone disease (pain and tenderness of the bones); Children may get mottled teeth.

- (4) **Nickel:** Higher chances of development of lung cancer, nose cancer, larynx cancer and prostate cancer
- (5) **Nitrate:** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.*
- (6) **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 materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's 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 (1-800-426-4791).*
- (7) **Copper:** *Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress; Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level.*

As you can see by the table, the Ridglea water system had no violations in water quality standards. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

However, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) had issued a Notice of Violation Letter on February 1, 2010 for not conducting the second round of Lead and Copper sampling between June and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Sampling that was conducted in the first half of the year, met water quality standards. We have since taken the required samples, which show we are meeting drinking water standards. The sample results have been included in the table above. In addition, based on the sampling results, the PA DEP has now reduced the required Lead and Copper sampling to once per year. Please refer to the attached Tier 3 Notice for additional information.

All 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 Levels (MCL) 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 two 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 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Please call our office if you have any questions.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Lead and Copper

Our water system violated the monitoring requirements for Lead and Copper for 2009. Even though your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Between June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the laboratory did not conduct the required second round of Lead and Copper testing. Therefore we can not be sure of the quality of drinking water during that time. The required sampling has been conducted and confirms that the water meets the water quality standards.

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for Lead and Copper, and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminants	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Should Have Been Taken	Number of Samples Taken	When all Samples Should Have Been Taken	When Samples Were Taken
Lead	2 times per year	10	0	6/1 to 12/31, 2009	2/17/2010
Copper	2 times per year	10	0	6/1 to 12/31, 2009	2/17/2010

### What happened? What was done?

Recent changes to the regulations increased the required sampling to twice a year. The first round of sampling was conducted and found to meet water quality standards. The second round of sampling was inadvertently missed by the laboratory. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) issued a Notice of Violation Letter dated February 1, 2010, which required the missing round of sampling to be completed. The samples were collected on February 17<sup>th</sup> and forwarded to the laboratory for testing. The results show that the water does meet the water quality standards. It should be noted

that following the testing, the PA DEP has reduced the number of samples required to once a year due to the observed water quality.

For more information, please contact Mildred Donnell at (610) 469-0444.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

PWS ID#: 1150215

Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_