

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

*Presented By*



**CRANBERRY**  
• TOWNSHIP •

## Letter from the Board of Supervisors

Safe, clean, and reliable. Those are the guiding principles Cranberry Township follows to ensure residents and businesses receive the highest-quality water possible. And according to state-mandated water tests for 2021, that mission continues to be a success.

Simply put, Cranberry Township's water is of excellent quality and exceeds state and federal standards. It's the next in a series of similar findings about the way we gather, treat, and distribute water to our community, and we are committed to keeping that high level of success for years to come.

Our highly trained staff continues to develop a long-range infrastructure improvement plan with a goal of improving water quality even further and identifying ways to ensure projects are completed efficiently. That includes finding ways to protect recent investments and upgrades in our system while simultaneously keeping it functioning at the highest level. While line breaks and repairs are routinely minimal, our staff works hard to identify issues early and fix them before they become larger and more expensive. Our water provider, West View Water Authority, continues its mission of providing a quality product to our residents. It's a commitment the authority shares with Cranberry Township and the 31 other municipalities it services.

We take the task of providing Cranberry Township residents with the best possible water very seriously. We will continue to work with our team of experts - including water quality specialists, lab scientists, and plant operators - to deliver the safest and highest-quality water to the residents of Cranberry Township. It's a mission that informs everything they do, and one in which they take great pride. We are proud to serve you and pleased to have the opportunity to work hard to ensure water service remains safe, clean, and reliable.

Sincerely,

Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors.

## Water Treatment Process

Before water arrives in Cranberry, it undergoes a series of treatments at the West View Water Authority's plant in Baden.

After screening at the plant's intake, the water is pumped from the intake building to the treatment facility, passing through an in-line static mixer where various chemicals are added to adjust the pH, remove additional iron and manganese, help with the coagulation process, and provide chlorination treatment.

The treated water is then directed into two flocculation tanks, followed by two plate settler clarification units. The effluent of the sedimentation basins is directed to six dual-media gravity filters, combined, and sent through two UV disinfection units and into two clearwell tanks. Effluent from the clearwell tanks is combined, the pH is adjusted for corrosion control, it's treated with chlorine for final disinfection, and then it passes through a static mixer before powerful pumps send the water on its way to Cranberry.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

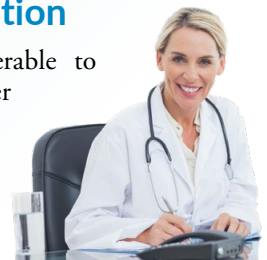
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Cranberry Township purchases its entire water supply - 913 million gallons last year - from the West View Water Authority in Allegheny County. Cranberry has a state allocation permit to use up to 4.4 million gallons a day from the Ohio River for drinking water, an amount we are comfortably below. The township's water supply, which accounts for growth over the coming years, is secured through a 25-year agreement with West View. We are proud to be West View's largest customer. West View operates two treatment plants, Neville Island and Baden, both of which utilize water taken from the Ohio River.

## Important Health Information

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



**QUESTIONS?** We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. We believe well-informed customers are important to the success of a community. If you have questions or concerns, call Customer Service: (724) 776-4806.

This report, along with those from previous years, is posted online at [www.cranberrytownship.org/WaterQualityReport](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/WaterQualityReport). Printed copies are also available upon request.

## Community Participation

Cranberry Township is always eager to hear about matters concerning our water and wastewater systems. Meetings of the Board of Supervisors are normally scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the first and last Thursday of the month. An opportunity for public comment is always on the agenda, so please use this opportunity to engage with township officials. For more information go to [Cranberytownship.org](http://Cranberytownship.org)

## Monitoring and Reporting Violation

On February 9, 2022, we became aware that our system recently failed to collect the correct number of drinking water samples within a specific time period. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did (and are doing) to correct this situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards.

During October 2021, we collected trihalomethane and haloacetic acid samples one day earlier than required. We are required to take four samples per quarter within three days of October 16, 2021. Samples were collected on October 12, 2021, which was one day earlier than required.

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

### What is being done?

We will monitor sample schedules and coordinate analysis with the laboratory during the time period within three days of the required sampling date. For more information, please contact Customer Service at (724) 776-4806 or 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

This notice is being sent to you by Cranberry Township, State Water System ID#: 5100094.

Date distributed: July 2022

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and DEP prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.



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, in some cases, radioactive material, and 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, or 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 may also 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.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information)

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.



The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES											
				Cranberry Township		West View Water Authority Baden Plant		West View Water Authority Neville Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines [Distribution] (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	0.2	0.2–1.81	1.3	1.3–1.8	1.2	1.2–1.9	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramines [Entry Point] <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	2021	MinRDL = 0.2	NA	0.76	0.76–1.93	1.2	1.2–2.4	1.3	1.3–2.1	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine [Distribution] (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	0.23	0.23–1.9	0.7	0.7–1.6	1.0	1.0–1.6	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine [Entry Point] <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	2021	MinRDL = 0.2	NA	0.69	0.69–1.94	1.3	1.3–2.2	1.4	1.4–2.1	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	2	2	NA	NA	0.567	NA	0.533	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	NA	NA	18.2	6–31	18.2	6–31	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2021	10	10	NA	NA	0.89	NA	1.06	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	NA	NA	63.5	18–84	63.5	18–84	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				Cranberry Township		West View Water Authority Baden Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.0507	0/30	0.09	0/61	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	ND	0/30	5.6	0/61	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
				West View Water Authority Baden Plant		West View Water Authority Neville Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Manganese (ppb)	2021	50	NA	1.62	0 -1.62	1.62	0 -1.62	No	Leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	West View Water Authority Baden Plant		West View Water Authority Neville Plant		TYPICAL SOURCE
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	
HAA6Br (ppb)	2018	11	4.1–24.3	11	4.1–24.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA9 (ppb)	2018	21.8	12–42	21.8	12–42	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup>The Amount Detected value represents the lowest level that was detected.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment by DEP found the source is potentially most susceptible to transportation corridors, bridges, boating, marinas, barge traffic, auto repair shops, truck terminals, utility substations, residential developments, combined sewer overflows, road deicing, and salt storage. Overall, the Ohio River, as a source, has a high risk of significant contamination. <https://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/view/collection-10045>

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**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.

**MinRDL (Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**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 contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.