

# *Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority*

*Public Water Supply ID# 5040063*

## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017*

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.)

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 dependable supply of drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements. Our water comes from four (4) groundwater wells.

### **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.
- 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).

A Source Water Assessment of our Sources(s) was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to contamination from power plants, railroads, river transportation, and roadway. Overall, our sources have high risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to Creswell Heights Joint Authority, PO Box 301, South Heights, PA 15081 and will be available on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm) 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 PADEP Pittsburgh Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (412) 442-4000.

In 2013 CHJA completed a Source Water Protection Plan. For more information, contact the office (724) 375-1303 or [info@creswellwater.net](mailto:info@creswellwater.net).

**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).**

Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows what we detected in our water during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. In the following tables, you will find many terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following:

### **Definitions and Abbreviations:**

**ppm**=Parts per million or milligrams per Liter (mg/L). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**ppb**=Parts per billion or micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Action Level** – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - 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** - The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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 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 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.

**TEST RESULTS**

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Units	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids	2-6-17	ppb	No	12.34	9.74-12.34	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Distribution Chlorine	15 Samples monthly	ppm	No	0.86 (b)	0.39-1.31	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Additive to control microbes
Trihalomethanes	8-3-17	ppb	No	35.9	25.3-35.9	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Barium	Sept 2015	ppm	No	0.0237	(a)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

- a.) Only one sample required. All samples were taken on the dates shown. The results are from the latest samples required by regulations.  
 b.) Highest monthly average of sites sampled.

**Entry Point Disinfectant**

Contaminant	MinRDL	Lowest level detected	Range of Detections	Unit	Date Sampled	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	0.65	0.74	0.74-1.06	ppm	4/8/17	No	Water additive used to control microbes

**Lead Testing**

In 2016 CHJA tested 20 homes for the presence of lead and copper in their household plumbing, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile results for both lead and copper were below the action levels as you can see in the chart below. 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. CHJA 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>.

**What can you do to reduce exposure to copper in drinking water? Run your water to flush out copper. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.**

**2016**

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Violation	Units	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	1-1-16 to 6-30-16	No	ppm	0	0-0.005	0	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1-1-16 to 6-30-16	No	ppm	0.963	0.375-1.08	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

In 2017 CHJA took special non-compliance samples at 30 homes monitoring for the presence lead and copper in their household plumbing. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile results for both lead and copper were below the action levels as you can see by the chart below.

**2017**

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Violation	Units	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	9-6-17 to 9-19-17	No	ppm	0	(a)	0	AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	9-6-17 to 9-19-17	No	ppm	0.837	0.195-0.960	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

(a) All samples were non-detects or 0.

**Violation**

[CHJA did not have any violations for 2017]

[CHJA did have a violation in 2016]

During our routine lead and copper monitoring in August 2013, tap water samples showed copper levels exceeded the Action Level (AL) of 1.3 MG/L. Because the action level was exceeded, we were required under the PA Safe Drinking Water Regulations to complete a corrosion control feasibility study within 18 months of this occurrence (February 2015) and submit a permit application for treatment changes within 30 months, February 2016. CHJA installed treatment for corrosion control on 07/30/2015. In 2016, after the required deadline, CHJA completed a corrosion control feasibility study that was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). CHJA has also submitted a permit application after the required deadline and received said permit on 11/14/17 for the construction and operation of Corrosion Control. **Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.**

**Conclusion**

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings that are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the authority office located at North and Jordan Streets. If you have any questions, please contact the CHJA office at (724) 375-1303 Monday through Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

**Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority**  
Daniel Losco, General Manager

*This report is mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection.*