

**2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For
The Borough of East Stroudsburg Water
Department
(PWSID # 2450023)**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a 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.

Last year we conducted more than 500 tests for over 80 possible drinking water contaminants. With these 500 tests, we detected at times some level of twelve (12) contaminants, and three test samples detected Total Coliform Bacteria and one sample detected E Coli at levels higher than the state allows. All positive samples found in 2009 were a result of a water main construction project; these positive readings were observed during November and December 2009 and were limited to construction areas. For more information, see the paragraph marked **Total Coliform (Special Sampling)** at the end of this report.

Our water is drawn from two reservoirs and four groundwater wells. The reservoir water is treated at the water filtration plant, and water drawn from the wells is treated on-site and used to supplement the water supply.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. 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 Borough Council Committee meetings. They are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.

The Borough of East Stroudsburg Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. All drinking water,

including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. As such, some of our data, though representative, are more than 1 year old.

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

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

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 - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 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. MCLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

What do these results mean?

We are proud to inform you that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

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.

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.

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).

At the East Stroudsburg Water Department we work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community,

our way of life and our children's future. You can assist us in our efforts by informing the Borough office of any suspected leaks in the water system or potential sources of contamination.

Total Coliform (Special Sampling): The Total Coliform Rule requires community water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up samples are done to determine if harmful fecal coliform or E. coli are present in the water supply. When repair of the water main is required, either due to construction or a break, the water is tested for contaminants. If a contaminant is found the affected users are notified and instructed to boil or continue to boil their water, and further testing is performed until the contaminant is no longer present. Coliform bacteria were detected on three (3) occasions in 2009, due to water main construction. During November 2009, two positive samples and December 2009, one positive sample were collected. Only a small number of users were affected by the boil advisory and those users affected, were contacted via printed flyers passed out by Borough personnel. The results of our follow-up special samples verified that no Total Coliform was present.

E. Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. In November 2009, one initial water sample collected came back positive for E. Coli, in the water main construction area. As required, special follow-up samples were taken which verified that no E. Coli was present in the water system.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Phillips, Borough Manager at 421-8300 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.