# Water Quality Report

PWSID Number 4140075

## The Big Spring in Bellefonte Bellefonte

We're pleased to present to you the **2015 Annual Water Quality Report.** This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and our constant goal to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We have put together a table that reflects the water test results for the **2015** calendar year and have included terms and abbreviations to help you understand the table.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager at the Bellefonte Borough Office, 236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA or call 814-355-1501. You may also direct inquiries concerning our water system to the Bellefonte Borough Authority, which meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Bellefonte Borough building. The Bellefonte Borough Authority is responsible for setting rates and policy for the system.

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap 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.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, 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 run-off, 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.**

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# Is The Water Safe For Everyone To Drink?

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).

However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. 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, and some elderly and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to reduce the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at **1-800-426-4791** or the **EPA** web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

*Information about Lead*

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. The Bellefonte Borough Authority 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*.

# Our Distribution System

The Big Spring, our water source, produces approximately 15 million gallons of water per day. From the Big Spring water is pumped to the manmade reservoir at the top of the hill on South Allegheny Street.

From this reservoir, water is then gravity - fed to a portion of the town's customers. Like the Big Spring, the reservoir is covered to protect the water quality. Water is also pumped to the standpipe on Hughes Street.

A second holding facility is located on the south side of the borough on Hughes Street behind the high school football field. Water from the large, blue tank is gravity fed to the remaining portion of the borough. Some lines do extend outside the borough. At various points in the system, small pump stations exist to add pressure for the water system.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table on the next page lists the drinking water contaminant that we detected during the calendar year of this report, as well as some historical data. The presence of a contaminant in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of this report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

**Important Drinking Water Definitions:**
**Action Level (AL):** 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**
**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 contamination.
**NA:** Not Applicable
**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) -** picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
**ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
**Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
**ppb:** parts per billion

| CHEMICAL RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminants (units)** | **MCLG** | **MCL** | **Level Detected** | **Range** | **Sample Date** | **Violation** | **Typical Source** |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .0221 | N/A | 9/10/15 | | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Total Trihalomethanes (THM) (ppb) | 80 | 80 | 1.38 | 0-5.5 | 9/25/15 | No | Byproduct of drinking water chlorination |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 1.96 | N/A | 9/10/15 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits |
| Total Coliform Presence | | More than 1 positive monthly sample | 1 | 0 – 1. | 10/15/15 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| ENTRY POINT DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE | | | | | | | |
| Chlorine EP 101 (ppm) with required 0.85<br>Chlorine EP 102 (ppm) with required 1.0 | 4 | 4 | .85 at EP 101<br>1.79 at EP 101<br>1.0 at EP 102<br>1.39 at EP 102 | EP101=.85-1.91<br>EP102=1.0-1.39 | 12/13/15<br>10/18/15<br>3/10/15<br>2/7/15 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| DISTRIBUTION DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE | | | | | | | |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 4 | 4 | Highest AVR. Result = .56 | 0.52-0.56 | Month of highest AVG result=August | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| LEAD AND COPPER (2013 Testing) | | | | | | | |
| **Contaminant** | **Action Level** | **MCLG** | **90th Percentile Value** | **Units** | **# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites** | **Violation Y/N** | |
| Lead | 15 | 0 | 1.03 | ppb | 0 out of 5 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper | 1.3 | 1.3 | .0978 | ppm | 0 out of 5 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

# PUBLIC NOTICE – VIOLATIONS

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION 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 Bellefonte Borough Authority

Our water system violated drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, 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. During 2015 we missed taking samples at one location for* **Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids Five** *and cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

We did not take the samples +/- 3 days of September 10th, 2015. Samples were taken on September 25th, 2015.

| Contaminant | Required sampling frequency | Number of samples required | Number of samples taken | When all samples should have been taken | When samples Were taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trihalomethanes | Annually | 2 sets | 2 set | 9/10/15 +/- 3 days | 9/25/15 |
| Haloacetic Acids Five | Annually | 2 sets | 2 set | 9/10/15 +/- 3 days | 9/25/15 |

**What happened? What was done?**

*Required sampling was erroneously overlooked. Make up samples were taken based on instructions provided by DEP.*

For more information, please contact the Borough Office at 814-355-1501.

*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.*

## BIOSOLIDS - QUICK FACTS

Biosolids are not raw sewage.

Biosolids must meet quality standards prior to land application.

Land application of biosolids is regulated by DEP.

Treatment facilities and application sites are inspected by DEP staff to ensure compliance.

Biosolids: Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the treatment of sewage sludge. Biosolids can be applied to agricultural fields as fertilizer to improve soils and stimulate plant growth. The application of biosolids is regulated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to ensure the material is treated properly and is then safely applied to agricultural areas. Biosolids must meet specific quality criteria before land application. Biosolids, other than landscape-grade, may not be applied to farmland, forests, or mine reclamation sites that are within 100 feet of a stream; within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling or water source; within 11 inches of a seasonal high water table; or within 3.3 feet of the regional groundwater table.

Bellefonte's Big Spring is not under the influence of surface water.

Bellefonte Borough Authority did not violate its source water plan. The Plan states: "… land uses, activities, or individual industries identified in the PSOC inventory are not necessarily a source of pollution; however, they have the *potential* for contaminating groundwater." The Plan states that the potential area of contribution to the Big Spring is approximately 55 square miles, covering 17 municipalities in two counties. Almost 900 potential sources of contamination were identified in the Plan.

For over 25 years Bellefonte Borough Authority has met or exceeded all PA DEP and US EPA-sanctioned biosolids program regulations. Even though the biosolids program is highly-regulated with ongoing testing and inspections, Bellefonte Borough Authority has never had a violation.

The farmer just wanted an affordable organic fertilizer instead of chemicals. The PA Supreme Court has already ruled that using biosolids is a normal agricultural operation.

Bellefonte Borough Authority has always enjoyed an outstanding relationship with its neighboring municipal and authority representatives and very much wants to maintain that relationship.

In a pending civil action against the farmer, Bellefonte Borough Authority willingly and voluntarily offered to forgo applying biosolids to the Spicer farm until a decision has been rendered by the Court.

For official PA DEP Fact Sheets on biosolids, please visit:

WWW.DEP.PA.GOV

**BELLEFONTE WATER SYSTEM**

**Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Bellefonte Borough Waterworks is to "contribute to the well-being of our community through the provision of an adequate supply of high-quality drinking water."**

Please call our office at 814-355-1501 if you have questions. We ask that all our customers help us protect our Big Spring water source, which is the reason Bellefonte, meaning "beautiful fountain," was founded here in the first place. If we work together, we can accomplish great things.

Water Quality Report

**Bellefonte Borough Offices**
**236 West Lamb Street**
**Bellefonte, PA 16823**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 118

## inside...

**Your Consumer Report on the Bellefonte Borough Water System for calendar year 2016.**

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