

# Water Quality Report



## The Big Spring in Bellefonte

We're pleased to present to you the **2012 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 2011 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.

**Our water source**, the Big Spring, pictured at left, located in Bellefonte Borough adjacent to Water Street and Spring Creek, produces approximately 15 million gallons of **natural ground water** per day. By order of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, and in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Big Spring is covered. This provides added insurance from external contaminants affecting our water.

A Source Water Assessment of the Big Spring was completed in 2003 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment found the Big Spring is most susceptible to non-point sources, i.e., industry near the spring, the gas/service stations, fuel oil distributors and railroad tracks in the contributing area. Currently, the water source is experiencing few problems. Our drinking water meets federal and state requirements. Summary reports of the Assessment are available at the borough office or on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (directLINK "source water"). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices.

**The Bellefonte Borough water system** is routinely monitored for contaminants according to federal and state laws. The table on page three shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012, or the most recent test cycle results.

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# Is The Water Safe For Everyone To Drink?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably expect to contain at least small amounts of some manmade or naturally occurring contaminants. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).



## A Look at 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 below lists the drinking water contaminant that we detected during the calendar year of this report. 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.

CHEMICAL RESULTS SUMMARY TABLE							
Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.0221		10/18/12	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.92	0-1.92	5/3/12	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Presence		More than 1 positive monthly sample	1	1	8/2/12	No	Naturally present in the environment
ENTRY POINT DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	Highest Value Reported = 1.86	.89-1.86	1/1/12 - 3/28/12	No	Water additive used to control microbes
DISTRIBUTION DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS TABLE							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	Month of Highest AVG result = MAY	Highest AVR. Result = 5.6	.478-5.6		Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
VIOLATIONS							
Contaminant	Violation Type					Date	
Chlorine	M/R Fail to Monitor or Plan—27					07/17/12	
Groundwater Rule	GWR Fail to Monitor/Report –31					07/17/12	
Endrin (SOC) Lindane (SOC) Methoxychlor(SOC) Toxaphene (SOC) Dalapon (SOC) Diquat (SOC) Endothall (SOC) Glyphosate (SOC) Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	Monitoring—Reporting - 03					01/13/12	

#### 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

### 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.

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Bellefonte Borough Offices  
236 West Lamb Street  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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inside...

Your Consumer Report on the Bellefonte Borough Water System for calendar year 2012.

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