

# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

## 2020

### The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown PWSID# 4440010

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.)

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown (MABL) is pleased to present to you this year's **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**. This report is designed to inform you about water quality and the services MABL delivers to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. MABL wants you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. MABL is committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The *primary* water source is the Laurel Creek Reservoir. In addition to that source, MABL is permitted to draw from three groundwater sources (wells), throughout the service area. Those wells were utilized for limited production in 2020. In 2020, over **980 MILLION GALLONS** of drinking water was produced for over 11,000 customers. That's nearly 2.7 million gallons per day!

**In 2020, MABL received a prestigious award. In August, MABL was awarded the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Program's Treatment Plant Optimization award. MABL was recognized for efforts to produce high quality drinking water that exceeds regulatory requirements. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that MABL has been given this award! MABL is one of only five treatment plants statewide to achieve this honor.**

**Also, in 2017, The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed its triennial Filter Plant Performance Evaluation (FPPE) on December 12-14, 2017. As a result of that extensive evaluation, MABL garnered the highest level of achievement, a Commendable rating!** Due to the pandemic, the FPPE was postponed in 2020, but a remote "LITE" Evaluation was performed in December '20. A full evaluation will be done in the near future.

*A source water assessment report is available at the MABL office. The report provides detailed information for potential sources of contamination. A summary of our water system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination follows:*

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) completed a Source Water Assessment of the Laurel Creek Reservoir, as well as three (3) wells in Milroy, which supply water to the Laurel Creek Water Treatment Plant, in 2003. The Assessment has found that MABL's water sources are potentially most susceptible to contamination events involving accidents on the major traffic corridors that run adjacent to and directly through the watershed. Other areas of concern involve waste management and land use practices of the agricultural professions and also residential waste disposal and handling. Finally, some fuel, chemical, and salt storage supply sites are listed as possible contamination sources. Overall, the Laurel Creek Watershed has **moderate** risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to **The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown, 70 Chestnut St, Lewistown, PA 17044** and will be available 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. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Southcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 705-4708.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Craig A. Bubb, Executive Director, at 717-248-0165**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. **Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm at the MABL business office located at 70 Chestnut Street in Lewistown.**

MABL routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. 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.

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).

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contaminants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants and Other Constituents</b>							
Contaminant (Units of Measurement)	Violation	Level Detected	Range of detects	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
	Y/N			CCR units			
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (NTU) (a)	N	.022	.013 -.022	TT	n/a	Soil runoff	
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>							
Fluoride (ppm) **Distribution System residual	N	.58	.24 - 1.00	2 (b)	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Barium	N	.0247	.0247	2	2	Discharge of drilling waste, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs), Byproduct Precursors, and Disinfectant Residuals (Distribution System)</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	N	14.9	10.7 – 17.6	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	31.0	14.4 – 41.5	100/80	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
*Chlorine (ppm)	N	.89	.20-1.53	MRDL= 4	MRDLG =4	Water additive used to control microbes	
<b>Lead and Copper Rule (c)</b>							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of sites above AL of total sites (37)	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	AL=15	0	1.63	(PPB)	0	N	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper	AL=1.3	1.3	.467	(PPM)	0	N	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

**Footnotes to the preceding table:**

(a) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity levels are continuously monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

On **January 1**, the MAXIMUM combined filtered turbidity value (.022 NTU) was recorded. In **January** 100% of turbidity samples met the turbidity limits set by the PA DEP. The range of detects in this table reflect the **highest** levels recorded in 2020. Our filtered water must remain **below .3 NTU** to be in compliance with the PA DEP. MABL has voluntarily set a limit of .1 NTU, (3 times LESS than required), through our membership with The Partnership for Safe Drinking Water, a national association for water suppliers, administered and monitored by the US EPA.

(b) US EPA's MCL for Fluoride is 4 ppm. PA has set a lower limit for Fluoride at 2 ppm. (These results were obtained during our routine monitoring in the Distribution System)

(c) **NONE** of the **37** samples that were collected in June 2019, for lead or copper, exceeded the Action Level. Sampling is required once every three (3) years. **The next round of samples will be collected in June 2022.**

**\*SPECIAL NOTE:**

The **Chlorine** levels shown in this table represent results from weekly distribution system monitoring (6 samples are taken per week from 30 different locations for Total Chlorine). The level detected represents the AVERAGE of all sample results. The Range shows the lowest level detected and the highest level detected for the year.

Some other contaminants that require only one sample are Nitrate and Arsenic. Those samples resulted in "NO DETECTS" in **2020**. Read more about these contaminants later in the report.

**In the preceding table you may have found terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms the following definitions are provided:**

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million or milligrams per liter (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 or micrograms per liter (corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000).

**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 (MCL)** - 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 (MCLG)** - 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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Important Note:** A complete list of all possible contaminants, that are required to be monitored, is available upon request. Please call our office if you would like to have a copy of the contaminant list in its entirety. MABL completed all of the required monitoring for the year, 2020. Many of the regulated and unregulated contaminants were undetected in our water.

As you can see by the preceding table, the MABL system had no monitoring violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. Through monitoring and testing MABL has found that some contaminants have been detected. Below, you will find health effects of particular contaminants and some unfamiliar definitions for terms used in our monitoring. If you would like a complete list of contaminants and their health effects, contact our office and that information will be made available to you.

Entry Point Chlorine – Chlorine levels detected at the entry point to the distribution system at the Treatment Plant							
Contaminant	Minimum RDL	Lowest level	Range	Units	Sample Date	Violation y/n	Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	.2	1.15	1.15-1.60	PPM	2020 (daily)	N	Water additive used to control microbes

### **Total Coliform**

The Total Coliform Rule requires 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 tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. **In 2020, 396 samples obtained were tested for Total Coliforms and Fecal Coliforms. Zero (0) samples tested positive for Coliform growth.** \*\*\*Standards of the US EPA stipulate that for treated water of acceptable quality, not more than 10% of all standard 100ml portions examined per month by the Colilert procedure shall show the presence of coliform organisms.

**Some of the possible contaminants that MABL monitors for are listed below. While this is not an exhaustive list, it includes the more common things found in drinking water.**

### **Arsenic**

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it may contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it 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. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**MABL did not detect arsenic in the finished water.**

## **Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

***Please note:*** As a precaution, we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply. **MABL did not detect nitrates in any water samples this year.**

## **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. MABL 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>.

## **TTHMs [Total Tri-halomethanes]**

Some people who drink water containing tri-halomethanes (TTHM's) in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. TTHM's are a by-product of chlorinating the water. MABL is required to maintain a level of chlorine in the water at all times so TTHM formation is inevitable. Our treatment processes eliminate most of the "pre-cursors" needed for their formation which is why the levels were in the low range during the year.

## **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 storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial process and petroleum production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements to the water system. The costs of these improvements are reflected in water rates. Based on management's operation of the system in 2020, no rate adjustment was necessary for 2021. Thank you for allowing MABL to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. MABL works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that you, our customers, help protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

**Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020. Please call our office if you have questions about any of the information contained in this report at (717) 248-0165.**

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A complete copy of this report can be accessed directly at:  
<https://lewistownwater.com/water-quality-report/>

Other referenced materials as well as useful information can be found on our website:  
[www.lewistownwater.com](http://www.lewistownwater.com)