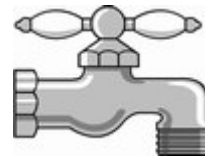


# HAZLETON CITY AUTHORITY WATER DEPARTMENT 2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



PWS ID PA 2408001

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda lien

## PURPOSE:

To comply with State and EPA regulations, the Hazleton City Authority issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. This year's report, issued in May of 2024, contains monitoring data from the 2023 calendar year. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's (2023) water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call us at (570) 454-2401. This report is available in English or Spanish on the HCA website: [hcawater.org](http://hcawater.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE TO CUSTOMERS:

As a service to our customers, the Hazleton City Authority Board of Directors, are proud to distribute our annual Consumer Confidence Report. This year's report, issued in May 2024, contains monitoring data from the 2023 calendar year. This report is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality and services we deliver to you everyday. It is a continuous commitment, on our part, to provide the highest quality water and service that meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards and regulations.

The Authority employs highly skilled personnel in the areas of water treatment, distribution, accounting and management. We pride ourselves in maintaining the highest level of integrity and superior service to our customers and our community.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Scot Burkhardt, Director of Operations, at the Hazleton City Authority -Water Department, 400 East Arthur Gardner Parkway, Hazleton, PA at (570) 454-2401. 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. They are held every Tuesday at 6:30 PM and are currently being held virtually on zoom and the meeting agendas and zoom meeting ID and passcode are posted on the HCA website: [hcawater.org](http://hcawater.org)

## THE SOURCE OF YOUR WATER:

Your drinking water originates from surface reservoirs, a well field, and the Lehigh River. The Humboldt and Mt. Pleasant Reservoirs and well field are located to the west of Hazleton. The Hudsonale and Dreck Creek Reservoirs are located to the east of Hazleton. Dreck Creek Reservoir is held full during dry periods by pumping water from the Lehigh River. The construction of the Lehigh River Pump Station in 1994 and recent dam rehabilitation projects have allowed the Hazleton City Authority – Water Department to maintain uninterrupted service during drought periods in the last many years. The raw water sources provide high quality water that is delivered to the Hazleton City Authority Water Treatment Plant. At the treatment plant the raw water undergoes conventional water treatment processes prior to distribution to our customers.

## CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDES:

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes; 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. Water monitoring programs are designed to ensure that your water meets, or surpasses, all drinking water standards. Your water is monitored at the source and continues to be monitored through your local distribution system. Substances that may be present in wells, lakes, reservoirs, and other untreated sources include:

- **Inorganic substances**, such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemicals Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, can be naturally occurring, or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

**WATER QUALITY STATEMENT:**

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were sampled in your drinking water during 2023. The Pennsylvania DEP allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of the contaminants does not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant levels (MCL) set by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania DEP, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of each substance was present in the water.

<b>Turbidity – A Measure of the Clarity of the Water at the Treatment Facility</b>							
Plant	Year Sampled	Substance (Units)	MCL	Average Turbidity Leaving Plant	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Turbidity - 99% of samples were below the TT value of 0.3	2023	Turbidity (NTU)	TT	0.08	0.03 – 0.47	Yes	Soil Runoff
All turbidity readings were below the treatment technique requirement of 0.3 NTU in 95% of all samples taken for compliance on a monthly basis and no single sample above 1.0 NTU.							

<b>Regulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility)</b>							
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG/ MRDL	Average Amount Leaving Plant	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.47	0.07 – 1.45	Yes	Water Additive which promotes Strong Teeth
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2023	N/A	4	1.33	0.84 – 1.97	Yes	Added as disinfectant to the treatment process
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.28	N/A	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks.
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.026	0.016 – 0.026	Yes	Discharge from drilling wastes. Erosion from natural deposits
Chlorite	2023	1.0	0.8	0.51	0.10 – 0.76	Yes	Sodium chlorite added with chlorine to create chlorine dioxide

**Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.**

**Infants under the age of six (6) months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.**

**TIER 3 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – FAILURE TO MONITOR – PWS # 2408001**

Sampling and Reporting requirements for Asbestos were not met.

Under the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Regulations, asbestos sampling was required to be collected by the Hazleton City Authority in the between the years 2020-2022 and reported to PA DEP. The Hazleton City Authority collected asbestos samples, at both the entry point to the system and in the distribution system, in 2023 and Asbestos was not detected (ND). Even though this sampling and reporting violation does not constitute a public health threat, you have the right to know what happened.

Some people who drink water containing Asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Soct Burkhardt Director of Operations for the Hazleton City Authority at 400 E. Arthur Gardner Parkway, Hazleton PA 18201 or by telephone at 570-454-2401.

Other Compounds (Measured in the Distribution System)							
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Results	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2023	80	N/A	33.30	15.3 – 61.7	Yes	By-product of drinking Water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2023	60	N/A	37.2	22.2 – 53.8	Yes	By-product of drinking Water chlorination

MCL (maximum contaminant level) applies and is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) calculated quarterly. Under the Disinfection Byproducts Rule 2 (DBPR2) Sample sets are collected each quarter and the levels detected at each location are averaged for each location individually on a running annual basis. Compliance is based on the resulting running annual average at each individual location. The Result represents the highest LRAA for all locations during the year. The Range represents individual sample results for all locations from all four quarters.

Bacterial Test Results- Measured from Hazleton City Authority Distribution System						
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Percentage Detected per Month	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Coliform (% of positive samples)	2023	No more that 5% of monthly samples can be positive	Zero Bacteria	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results								
Substance (ppm)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Samples	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	30	ND	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	0	30	0.11	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Other Compounds (Measured in the Distribution System)							
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Results	Range Low - High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Nitrates (ppm)	2023	10	N/A	0.028	0-0.028	Yes	Naturally present in the environment And Fertilizers
Nitrites (ppm)	2023	60	N/A	ND	N/A	Yes	Naturally present in the environment And Fertilizers

#### HOW TO READ THIS TABLE:

Starting with a **Substance**, read across left to right. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2023 or prior year. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (goal may be set lower than what is allowed). **Highest Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

#### DEFINITIONS:

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

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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 contamination.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Parts Per Million (ppm):** One part substance per million parts of water, or milligram per liter.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb):** One part substance per billion parts of water, or microgram per liter.

**Not Applicable (N/A):** Does not apply to this condition.

**None Detected (ND):** None of this substance was detected in samples collected.

#### SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION:

*Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons - such as persons with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly persons and infants - can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control offer guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. This information is available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.*

#### SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER:

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminant in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Hazleton City Authority's water treatment processes

are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern and the processes are controlled to provide maximum protection against microbial and viral pathogens that could be naturally present in surface and groundwater. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminant does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## PROTECTING YOUR WATER SOURCE:

In 2018, the Hazleton City Authority completed comprehensive Source Water Protection Plans to protect their surface water intakes and groundwater wells. This project delineated protection zones for these water sources, identified potential sources of contamination, planned for potential pollution events, and selected management strategies that can be implemented in the future. This assessment found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to agricultural activities, roadways, and mining. Public education and watershed improvements are the primary focus of the program, which will benefit all residents and companies working and living in our service area. Hazleton City Authority encourages you to take an active part in protecting your water supply. More information is available by contacting HCA (570) 454-2401.

## OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS OF INTEREST:

**Lead Awareness:** 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. Hazleton City 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home will be higher than at other homes in the community, as a result materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by a laboratory at your expense. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791**.

**Water Hardness:** Water hardness is a measure of the concentration of two minerals naturally present in water – calcium and magnesium. High hardness levels cause soap not to foam as easily as it would at lower levels. Hardness levels in the drinking water in the Hazleton Area are low, ranging from approximately 10 ppm to 35 ppm, or 0.5 to 2 grains per gallon of water.

**Sodium levels:** The sodium level in drinking water in the Hazleton System is low, approximately 16 ppm.

**pH:** Water in the Hazleton Distribution System averages approximately 7.1 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, neither acidic nor basic.

**Fluoride:** The Hazleton City Authority adds fluoride to your drinking water and maintains a level in the range recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

## DOES YOUR WATER CONTAIN NITRATES?

Hazleton City Authority's normal range of nitrates is well below the MCL of 10 ppm and was detected in the sample collected in the Hazleton System during 2023. Nitrate enters the water supply from fertilizers used on farms and natural erosion of deposits in the watershed. Levels above 10 ppm are a health risk for infants under six months of age and can cause blue baby syndrome. Check with your physician if you have questions.

***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 for advice from your health care provider.*

## DOES YOUR WATER CONTAIN ARSENIC?

Hazleton City Authority's normal range of arsenic is well below the MCL of 10 ppm and was not detected in the sample collected in in the Hazleton System during 2023. Arsenic enters the water supply from erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL (10) over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**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 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.*

#### **HOW TO CONTACT US:**

Additional copies of this report can be obtained by calling our Customer Service Department at 570-454-2401. Added information can be gathered by calling our Customer Service Department or by viewing the following information on the internet. HCA Website: [hcawater.org](http://hcawater.org)

#### **WATER INFORMATION SOURCES:**

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection** - [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** - [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline** - (800) 426-4791

**Center for Disease Control and Protection** - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**American Water Works Association** - [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

#### **HAZLETON CITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael DeCosmo Jr, Patrick Fay, John Keegan, Joseph Zeller, Peter Andrasko

#### **SHARE THIS REPORT**

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of the Hazleton City Authority and therefore do not receive this report directly.