

# Ontelaunee Township

## PWSID #3060098

### Annual Water Quality Report

#### Water Testing Performed in 2018

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

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 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 run-off 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 assure 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.

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* (800-426-4791).

#### 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. Ontelaunee Township 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>.

#### **Important Health Information:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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 health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report of Ontelaunee Township

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The Reading Water Authority (RAWA) and Ontelaunee Township routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Water Drinking Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table. Our water source comes from the RAWA. Lake Ontelaunee is the RAWA water source. The water is collected by RAWA and is tested by both RAWA and Ontelaunee Township.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact us at 610-916-4240. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. They are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Ontelaunee Township Municipal Building. Effective April 20, 2018 the operations and maintenance of the Ontelaunee Township Sewer and Water System was taken over by the Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors. The Ontelaunee Township Municipal Authority was disbanded.

Chemical Contaminant (unit of measurement)	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) (Monthly Average of Distribution System)	MRDL 4.0	MRDL G 4.0	0.90	0.90 - 2.33	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids * (HAA5) (ppb)	60	60	22.05 ***	13.7 – 31.4****	2018	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) **	80	80	35.05 ***	25.0 - 47.9 ****	2018	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\* Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

\*\* Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes 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.

\*\*\* Based on a running annual average

\*\*\*\* Based on the quarterly averages for the CCR year

### Inorganic Chemicals (IOCS)

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	2	4	0.89	0.52-- - 0.89	2018	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as Nitrogen(ppm)	10	10	3.98	2.20 – 3.98	2018	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.018	N/A	2016	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

### Entry Point Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	0.20	0.23	0.23 - 3.44	2018	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	# of Sites above AL of Total Sites	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.281	0 out of 35	2018	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2	0 out of 35	2018	N	Corrosion of household plumbing ; Erosion of natural deposits

Microbial Contaminants	TT	Number of Level 2 Assessments triggered by an E. coli MCL	Number of Level 2 Assessments triggered by Multiple Level 1 Assessments	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	NA	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.	
*E. Coli	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	2	2	Y	Human and animal fecal waste.	
<p>RAWA is required, based on population served, to do 106 bacteriological samples per month. In May and August of 2018, 1 routine sample out of 106 confirmed to be positive for total coliform. In September 2 routine samples out of 105 confirmed to be positive for total coliform. One of the detections in September 2018 also confirmed positive for E. coli. In October that same site again tested positive for total coliform and E. coli.</p> <p>*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 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.</p>						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Turbidity	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.130 NTU	Nov. 2018	N	Soil runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU		100%	N/A	N	
<b>Radionuclides</b>						
Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	3.2	2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>						
Percent removal range required for TOC is 0-35%. The percent removal achieved by RAWA in 2018 is 27%-52%.						
<b>Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)</b>						
We were not required to monitor for SOCs in 2018.						

**Violations: NONE**

## What's In My Water?

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

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

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

**Detection Limit** - The lowest level detected by the laboratory.

**Non-Detectable (ND)** - A result below the detection limit for the chemical

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - Measure of turbidity using a specific instrument to measure the cloudiness of water.

**Mrem/year** = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) **ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

## WATER CONSERVATION FOR KIDS



When brushing your teeth or washing hands, don't leave the water running! Turn off faucets tightly.

Take a quick shower! A shower uses 10 – 25 gallons of water compared to as many as 70 gallons for a bath!

Throw your leftover ice cubes from your drinks into the house plants to save on watering them.



When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain, use it to water your trees and shrubs.



Use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs water.

### WHAT IS YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT?

The amount of water you use is known as your water footprint and is the best way to see where you can start saving on water in your home. Figure out how much water you use and how you can figure out how to use less at:

[http://www.savewaterpa.org/calculate\\_your\\_water\\_footprint](http://www.savewaterpa.org/calculate_your_water_footprint)