

# Ontelaunee Township

## PWSID #3060098

### Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### Water Testing Performed in 2019

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

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).

## 2019 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>, 2019. 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 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 610-926-4240. 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.

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	1.02	1.02 - 2.36	2019	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids * (HAA5) (ppb)	60	60	20.10 ***	N/A	2019	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) **	80	80	37.60 ***	N/A	2019	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Orthophosphate	-	-	0.75	0.75-1.69	2019	N	Water additive used to control corrosion

\* 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	3.99	2.20 – 3.98	2019	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; 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	0.57	0.57 - 3.44	Sept. 2019	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	0.1710	0 out of 6	10/2019	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15	0	4	0 out of 6	10/2019	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.	
<p>RAWA is required, based on population served, to do 90 bacteriological samples per month. In October of 2019, 1 routine sample out of 106 confirmed to be positive for total coliform.</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	0.536 NTU	Oct. 2019	N	Soil runoff
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples < 0.3 NTU		100%	N/A	N	
Radionuclides						
Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	5	0	.56	2019	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)						
Percent removal range required for TOC is 0-35%. The percent removal achieved by RAWA in 2019 is 33%-48%.						
Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)						
We were not required to monitor for SOCs in 2019.						

**Violations: Please see attached.**

## 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.

*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 (mg/L)

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

## Raindrop Recycling

With more interest generated in sustainable living and conserving money one way to recycle is to use rain barrels to collect and store rainwater from rooftops – water which would normally pour off our roofs and downspouts into the sewer. Storm runoff sometimes can find its way into our wastewater treatment plants. Recycling with rain barrels is a way you can relieve some stress on those facilities. A lot of water can be collected with a rain barrel! A roof that is 1,000 square feet in size collects about 600 gallons of water for every inch of rain that falls.

Water can be stored for gardening and watering potted plants, washing cars, bicycles or dogs! Rain barrel kits can be purchased at home center stores, online or can be made at home for a fraction of the price.

Here are some things to remember if you choose to use a rain barrel.

### Placement:

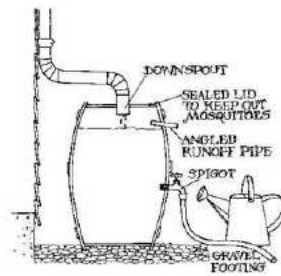
- o Choose a downspout on your house or garage that is close to the plants and garden you water most.
- o Choose a downspout where your rain barrel's overflow will soak into your own yard, and not your neighbor's property.
- o Place your rain barrel on a surface that allows overflow from the barrel to soak into the ground not where it can pool or seep into your house or garage foundation.
- o Place gravel footing or concrete blocks under the rain barrel if you are going to use a hose to direct water to your garden (gravity will help move the water) or if you want to fill up a watering can from the spigot.
- o Keep your rain barrel lid on tight at all times to prevent children or animals (insects) from entering or falling in.
- o DO NOT DRINK WATER from your rain barrel.

### Maintaining Your Rain Barrel:

- o Keep your rain barrel spigot closed when you are not using the water so that the rain barrel can collect water. Overflow water will spill from the black vent on the top and the overflow hole on the side near the top.
- o Regularly check your gutters, downspouts, rain barrel water intake screen, mosquito screen and spigot for leaks, obstructions or debris.
- o Keep your rain barrel lid sealed.
- o Drain your rain barrel before temperatures drop below freezing.
- o In the winter, keep your barrel spigot open so that the water does not accumulate in the rain barrel and freeze. You can also turn it upside down or bring it inside.

### Preventing Mosquitoes:

- o Your rain barrel should be equipped with a mosquito-proof screen under the lid and inside the overflow hole to keep mosquitoes and other insects out.
- o Keep you barrel lid sealed and free of organic material.
- o During the rainy season, every 3-4 days use your hand to splash off any water that may collect on the top of the barrel. Mosquitoes only need 4 days of standing water to develop as larva.
- o If you believe mosquitoes are breeding in your rain barrel, empty the barrel completely.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER FAILURE TO MONITOR

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN 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 **Ontelaunee Township Water Department**

Our water system violated several 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 2019 we did not conduct all of this monitoring and therefore 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.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for \_\_\_\_\_ and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Lead	Every Three Years at 10 locations	6 of 10	Between June 1 and September 30, 2019	Between June 1 and September 30, 2020
Copper	Every Three Years at 10 locations	6 of 10	Between June 1 and September 30, 2019	Between June 1 and September 30, 2020

**What happened? What was done?**

For more information, please contact Kelly Burdick at 610-926-4240 x 208.

*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.*

This notice is being sent to you by Ontelaunee Township Water Department.

PWS ID#: 3060098

Date distributed: 2019 CCR REPORT



# MCL Violation Report

**M.J. Reider Associates, Inc.**  
ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING LABORATORY  
U.S. EPA/PA DEP #06-00003



<b>Client Name:</b> Ontelaunee Township	<b>Contact Number:</b> 610-916-3445
<b>Contact Name:</b> Chris Hemmrig	<b>Lab Manager:</b> Christina M Kistler
<b>Project:</b> Weekly Chlorine - WEEK 4	

The analytes listed in this report exceed one or more regulatory limits

<b>Sample Name:</b> 736 Berks Medical Equipment Warehouse Office Restroom Sink (3060098)	<b>Reported:</b> 12/30/19 10:59
<b>Collected By:</b> Barbara A Raifsnider	<b>Sample LOC ID:</b> 736
<b>Sample ID (Matrix):</b> 9044114-02 (Drinking Water)	<b>Sample Type:</b> D-Distribution
<b>Sampled:</b> 12/26/19 9:32	

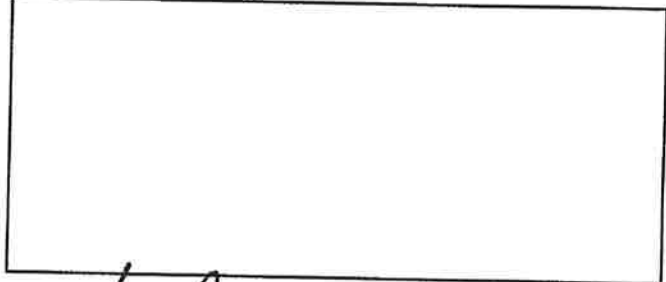
Field	Result	RL	Units	Analyzed	Reviewed	MCL Lower Limit	MCL Upper Limit	PA DEP Analyte ID
Chlorine, Total Residual	<0.05	0.05	mg/l	12/26/19 9:32	12/30/19 10:59	0.15	4	1012

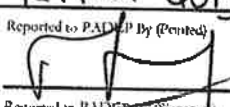
### PADEP Contact Information

Berks County  
1005 Cross Roads Blvd., Reading, PA 19605  
(610) 916-0100

Contact	Contact Phone	Contact Email
Ben Stermer	610-916-0100	bestemec@pa.gov
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Kristopher Gilham	610-916-0100	kgilham@pa.gov
Megan McLaughlin	610-916-0100	memclaughl@pa.gov
Susan Werner	610-916-0100	suwerner@pa.gov

Notes:



Rafael Quijada 12/26/19 10:18  
 Reported to PADEP By (Printed) Date/Time  
  
 Reported to PADEP by (Signature)

[Signature] 12/20/19 10:18  
 Reported to Customer By (Signature) Date/Time  
Emailed DEP & Client 12/20/19 10:18  
 Client Contacted Via Written Notice Date/Time  
N/A  
 Client Contacted Via Telephone Date/Time

The testing laboratory must notify the Public Water Supplier by telephone within 1 hour (or the appropriate DEP regional office by telephone within 2 hours) of the determination that an MCL violation has occurred for any Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance testing result that is at or above the listed MCL for that contaminant code. Written notification must be provided to the appropriate DEP regional office within 24 hours.