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EAST PETERSBURG
BOROUGH OFFICE
6040 Main Street
East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-9282

Office Hours

7:30 AM-4:00 PM
Monday Thru Friday

Council Members

Debra Miller, President
John Schick, Vice President
Adam Gochbauer, Member
Lauren Houck, Member
John Herr, Member
Randy Rannels, Member
Sandra Valdez, Member
James A. Malone, Mayor
Karen St. Clair, Manager

Meeting Dates

Borough Council Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
3rd Thursday as needed 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
4th Wednesday as needed 7:00 p.m.

Committee Meeting
4th Thursday of the month Jan.—Oct.



MAYOR'S NOTE



Hello Neighbor!

It's nearly Summer 2023. Can you believe that?!

May is National Military Appreciation month. If you know of any veteran who needs assistance in our area, reach out to Lancaster County Veteran Affairs (<https://co.lancaster.pa.us/163/Veterans-Affairs>) Ph: 717-299-7920 (<https://co.lancaster.pa.us/292/Veterans-Resources>) or our local East Petersburg Borough Veterans.

As I shared in past years, the start of summer for many, myself included, is marked by remembrance on Memorial day weekend (Sat., May 27, '23 - Mon., May 29, '23) when we honor those who died in military service for the United States.

May is also National Mental Health Awareness Month. It is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma many experience.

I am looking forward to many opportunities to interact with our neighbors this summer including the Community Yard Sale & Chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 3rd. I certainly hope to see you all at some point that weekend.

This year, we will again be gathering to celebrate National Night Out on Tues, Aug 1 '23 at the East Petersburg Community Pool. I hope to see you there. The bike ride starts things off at 5:30 pm leaving from and returning to the pool. As in previous years, I'll be bringing up the rear of the wheeled caravan. We're always happy to have volunteers to pitch in. If you are interested in helping, contact our borough office.

As always, if you are looking for resources or information on what is happening within the borough, please be sure to visit our website at www.eastpetersburgborough.org.

You can also "SUBSCRIBE TO RECENT NEWS" in the bottom right of the website (in the footer).

I hope to see you soon.

At your service,
James

James Andrew Malone, Mayor
East Petersburg Borough
6040 Main St. East Petersburg, PA 17520
Phone: 717-569-9282 ext 50
Fax: 717-569-3731

mayor@eastpetersburgborough.org | <http://www.eastpetersburgborough.org/>



SUMMER BOROUGH EVENTS

For more information and updates on events go to:
<http://www.eastpetersburgday.com/> & Facebook page East Petersburg Day

June 3

Community Yard Sale and Chicken BBQ

Begins at 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Reserve a 10'x 10' space for \$10.00. Up to two additional spots can be reserved for \$10.00 each. Registration is preferred, but vendors will be able to sign up on the morning of the event with cash only. Set up in the park starts at 7:00 a.m. The sale of food is not permitted.



June 30

Music/Movie in the Park and FIREWORKS!

5:30 p.m. until 10:45 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Live entertainment and food trucks.

8:30 p.m. Movie in the park.

Fireworks will follow the movie.



July 15

NEW! Sweet Sounds of Summer Music Festival

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

A fantastic lineup of musicians and performers, this festival promises to be an unforgettable experience for music lovers of all ages and food trucks.

August 1

National Night Out

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

A community bike ride will begin at 5:30 p.m., starts and ends at E.P. Pool. All participants are asked to wear an appropriate helmet on the bike ride.

Free NNO activities from 6:00—8:00 p.m. include: free open swim, bounce houses, touch a truck, hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and refreshments. All swimmers 18 and under must pass the swim test or have a responsible adult in the pool with them at all times.



August 5

NEW! Summer Fest featuring UPTOWN BAND

1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

UPTOWN BAND is one of the most entertaining bands touring our area. This concert is going to be fun for all ages. Music will start around 1:30 p.m. with the show opener, Corsair Jazz Band.

Food trucks and Beer Garden will be available.



Blues Fest - September 2
East Pete Days - September 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23



Potholes

How to Report Them to PennDOT

While it's always great to welcome the warmer weather changing temperatures also bring more potholes on our roads and bridges.

Extreme fluctuations in temperatures are significant contributors to potholes on our roads.

To help combat potholes and prevent them from becoming a danger to vehicles and drivers on the road, you can report potholes on state roads (Rt.72 & Rt.722) to PennDOT. Simply call 1-800-FIX-ROAD or [file a report online here](#).

Report potholes on Borough Streets to the Borough office 717-569-9282 or send a message through the Borough website contact us.



2023 Road Work Schedule

The following streets are on the 2023 Fog Sealing & Road Resurfacing schedule:

- Olde Meadow Court
- Madison Court
- Meadow Lark Lane
- Orange Street
- Cherry Street
- Oak Street

LOCAL Access to residents homes will be allowed during the roadwork, but NO PARKING allowed on the street during the paving projects from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A final fog seal application will be applied a few weeks later.



Driveway resurfacing, and expansions (including stone areas) need to have a zoning permit. The fee is doubled if permit is not obtained prior to the start of work.



Don't Trash It- Compost It!

Have you ever thought about composting food scraps or lawn trimmings but not sure where to begin? Composting is not only beneficial to the earth, but also to your trash can by reducing the amount of waste you put out each week. Composting takes a small amount of upfront work to get started but can produce nutrient rich soil for your lawn or garden.

Watch this video to learn how to start a compost bin:

[Backyard Composting](#)



What is compost?

Compost, at its basic level, is decomposed organic matter. Composting occurs every day in soil, but when you create a compost pile you speed up the natural processes. Microbial organisms (mainly bacteria and fungi) exist in the soil, leaves, and food scraps. Finished compost works to transform "dead" materials into nutrients that enrich your garden. Made from organic wastes like kitchen scraps, paper, and yard clippings, compost is an effective way to recycle while creating a valuable byproduct that feeds plants for healthy growth.

Why Compost?

- It enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.
- It reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Gardeners often call compost "black gold" because it's so rich in nutrients.



According to the EPA, about 24% of the United States' waste is organic material that could be composted. Americans throw away an average of 1.3 pounds of food scraps daily. These scraps are rich with nutrients that are beneficial to the soil. When food is not composted, it enters the waste stream and those nutrients are lost.

SUMMER RECYCLING/TRASH DATES TO REMEMBER

YARD WASTE PICK UP (YARD WASTE MUST BE IN YARD WASTE BAGS — IT DOES NOT NEED A TAG.)

JUNE 3
JUNE 16
JUNE 30
JULY 14
JULY 28
AUGUST 11
AUGUST 25

CHANGES TO TRASH COLLECTION

SATURDAY JUNE 3
SATURDAY JULY 8

IF YOU ARE BAGGING GRASS, IT MUST BE IN A YARD WASTE BAG AND HAVE A GRASS TAG.

EAST PETERSBURG
BOROUGH
GRASS BAG TAG



Permits

Be sure to get your permit before starting your summer home improvement project. Permits are required for the following (but not limited to):

- **New construction and additions**
- **Interior wall relocation or other structural changes**
- **Replacing structures destroyed or damaged**
- **Adding or changing stairs or railings**
- **Dormers and porches**
- **Decks**
- **Patios**
- **Sheds**
- **Fences**
- **Pools** - above ground and inground
- **Spas and hot tubs**
- **Sidewalks**
- **Driveways** - resurface, expand, replace
- **Electrical upgrades require inspections**
- **Plumbing**
- **A change in heating source**
- **Solar panels**
- **Dumpsters and PODS also require permits**

Please Note: If work has started before a permit is acquired, the permit fee will be doubled.

Property line distances can be found on your property deed. To get a copy of your deed call Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds 717-299-8238.

Grass growing at the curb can be very unsightly.



Please remember:
This is the responsibility of the homeowner. Be sure to remove all grass and weeds from your curb lines.

When Dog Barking Becomes a Nuisance

Per East Petersburg Borough's Ordinance 241, § 49-3 b) It shall be unlawful to own, possess, harbor, control or keep any animal which makes noise repeatedly for a period of fifteen (15) minutes during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. or repeatedly for a period of five (5) minutes during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. regardless of whether the animal is physically situated in or upon private property. Said noise shall constitute a nuisance; provided, that at the time the animal is making such noise, no person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property upon which the dog is situated.

This ordinance is enforced by the police and they must catch the dog in the act. For something of this nature call the non-emergency number 717-664-1180.

Refer to Act 10 for PA state dog laws: [2017 Act 10 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](https://legis.state.pa.us) .



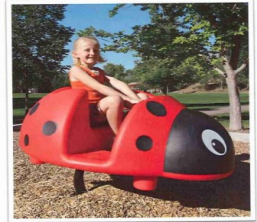


East Petersburg Borough Community Park Upgrade Renovations Project

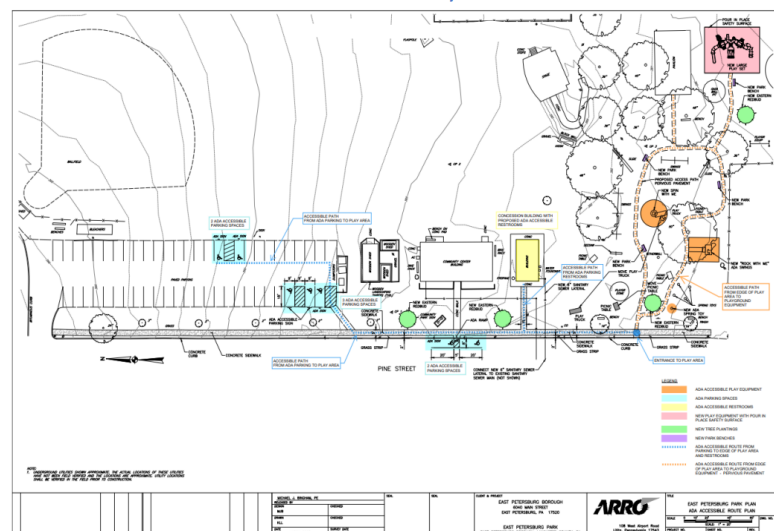
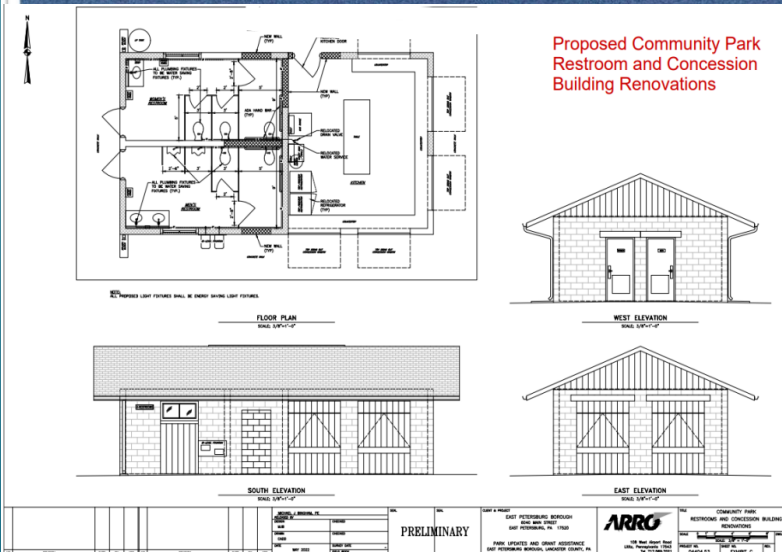
East Petersburg Borough submitted a DCNR Playground and Recreation grant application for the renovation of our Community Park at 6051 Pine Street. The project will rehabilitate the park playground equipment, restrooms, and construct an ADA compliant pathway that interconnects the recreation area. The Community Park currently has out-of-date, unsafe wooden playground equipment that will be replaced with ADA-compliant equipment. The project will upgrade the playground equipment and establish an inclusive pathway throughout the park. In addition, to make the recreation area and restrooms accessible, the Borough will be replacing the current aging sidewalks connecting the pathway to the parking lot. The proposed plan also includes expanding the bathroom facilities, to construct a new ADA-restroom facility that is accessible for all park goers to use. The Community Park Grant Project we are applying for is through the DCNR, C2P2 Playground and Recreation Development Grant. Plan details are available at the Borough Office and at the monthly Council and Committee Meetings.



East Petersburg Borough Playground



DCNR Park Grant Renovation Project Overview





STORMWATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

What is an MS4?

The Borough of East Petersburg manages a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) which is made up of a network of pipes, drains, channels, and basins that carry untreated stormwater runoff throughout the Borough directly to local waterbodies. Under the Borough's MS4 permit, which provides authorization for the Borough to discharge into these waterbodies, the Borough must monitor what gets released into and from the MS4.

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is any discharge into the Borough's MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater; this can include chemicals, trash, and organic debris.

What can you do to help?

As you are performing your daily job responsibilities around the Borough, please keep a look out for any illicit discharges you may come across. Examples of common illicit discharges observed entering the MS4 can be found below.

If you see something, say something!



CHEMICALS



POOL WATER



YARD WASTE



TRASH



CAR FLUIDS &
WASH WATER

If you come across an illicit discharge, please contact East Petersburg Borough as soon as possible and provide the following information if available:

- Location of concern
- Quantity, origin, color, or odor if present
- Individuals involved in discharge

717.569.9282



SUMMER DAY CAMP

June 5, 2023 – August 10, 2023 (Closed on July 3, July 4, and August 11)
Hours of Operation: 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM Daily

[Summer Day Camp Registration/ Calendar of Events](#)

SUMMER PLAYGROUND

Eight weeks of summertime fun!

A Herr Park | Mountville Park | Silver Spring Park

Keep kids outdoors, engaged, and active! For kids ages 6-12

Dates: June 12-August 4, 2023
Days: Monday-Friday
Time: 9:00a – 3:30p
Note: closed July 3 & 4

EARLY REGISTRATION:
April 3rd - April 21st
\$160 – Youth Members
\$180 – Hempfield Resident
\$220 – Non-Resident

[2023-Playground-Parent-Handbook.\(hempfieldrec.com\)](https://www.hempfieldrec.com/2023-Playground-Parent-Handbook)



The Summer Reading Program for 2023 starts
June 3 and goes on until August 12.

[Library System of Lancaster County - Summer Reading Program Information](#)



2023 POOL SEASON



HARC - East Petersburg Pool

2575 Graystone Road East Petersburg, PA

Memberships are valid Memorial Day through Labor Day.



[Summer Pool Member Ship Information](#)



The warmer weather often tells us it's time to decide what to do with all our extra stuff; *donate or throw away?*

The question to answer is "*does this have any value left that another person can take advantage of?*" If the answer to that question is yes, don't toss it. Donate it instead.

Here are some great community resources that promote reusing and repurposing.

[How to Recycle Clothing & Accessories - Earth911](#)

[Let's Work Together to Minimize Our Community's Waste | LCSWMA](#)



2022 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID #: 7360135 East Petersburg Borough Water Department

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o 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.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:

This report shows out water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Scott Liggins, at 717-569-2321. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Community Center, 6051 Pine Street, East Petersburg, PA at 7:00 p.m.

SOURCE(S) OF WATER:

Our water sources are:

Koser Road Spring- 407 Koser Road Lititz, PA 17543

Vaughn Road Well- 5856 Vaughn Road East, Petersburg, PA 17520

Lancaster City Interconnection- 5181 Main Street East Petersburg, PA 17520

A Source Water Assessment of our sources was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to agricultural applications of fertilizers and other chemicals, residential herbicide and pesticides chemical applications, fuel storage accidents and spills along transportation corridors, and road deicing activities. Overall, our sources have moderate risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment & Protection web page: www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.html. 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 PA DEP South Central Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 705-4732.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).



MONITORING YOUR WATER:

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. 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 Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

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.

Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Distribution Chlorine	4	4	2.11	1.69 - 2.11	ppm	2022	N	Water additive used to control Microbes.
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	80	14.98	4 – 41.2	ppb	2022	N	Byproduct of Disinfection.
Haloacetic acids HAA5	60	60	5.86	0 – 16.4	ppb	2022	N	Byproduct of Disinfection.
Nitrates- Spring	10	10	5	4.58 – 5.25	ppm	2022	N	Run off from fertilizer use, Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrates- Well	10	10	5	5.06 – 5.91	ppm	2022	N	Run off from fertilizer use, Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2*	2	0.1	---	ppm	5-25-22	N	Water additive that promotes strong teeth.

*EPA MCL for Fluoride is 4 ppm. Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Spring	0.2	0.32	0.32 - 2.41	ppm	6/28/22	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Well	0.40	0.79	0.79 - 2.80	ppm	2/12/22	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead & Copper								
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value	Units	Sample Date	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	4.0	ppb	2022	1 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.259	ppm	2022	0 of 20	N	Corrosion of household plumbing.



Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)					
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	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	0	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Microbial (related to E. coli)					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Positive Sample(s)	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
E. coli	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive, and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.
Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessments/ Corrective Actions	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
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	0	See description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Turbidity						
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Source of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=2 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.202	4-11-22	N	Soil runoff.
	TT= at least 95% of monthly samples ≤1.0 NTU		100%	N/A	N	



DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS: SUSQUEHANNA WATER TREATMENT PLANT; ENTRY POINT 101 RESULTS ARE FROM LANCASTER CITY PWSID #7360058

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Fluoride	2*	2	0.68	---	ppm	2022	N	Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Barium	2	2	0.022	---	ppm	2022	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

LANCASTER CITY PWSID #7360058 *EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level detected	Sample date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Turbidity	TT=1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.03 NTU	1/11/22	N	Soil runoff.
	TT=at least 95% of monthly samples≤0.15 NTU		≤0.15 NTU 100% of the time	Jan. - Dec. 2022	N	

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	Range of percent removal achieved	Number of quarters out of compliance	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
TOC	0%-35%	30%-45%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual: Susquehanna and Conestoga Treatment Plants

Contaminant	MinRDL	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Date of Lowest Sample	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Susquehanna Plant Chlorine	0.20	0.88	0.88 – 2.13	ppm	2/5/22	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Conestoga Plant Chlorine	0.20	0.25	0.25 – 1.46	ppm	2/4/22	N	Water additive used to control microbes.



Additional Violations: None

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

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. 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 runoff, 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 runoff, 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 ensure 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 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. East Petersburg Borough 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>.

Information about 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.