

# MOON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



## Public Water Supply

### 2018 Water Quality Report

This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the service we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of excellent quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The Moon Township Municipal Authority (MTMA) water supply is obtained from an alluvium deposit of sand and gravel in the flood plain of and beneath the Ohio River and from the Ohio River. A radial well, two vertical wells and a surface water intake are located along the southern bank of the Ohio River. The treatment facility is operated to provide very reliable treatment of a blend of groundwater and surface water.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Municipal Authority meetings occur on the third Wednesday of each month, at 5:00 p.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Moon Township Community Service Center 1700 Beaver Grade Road. The public is welcome.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. MTMA (Public Water Supply #5020011) routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables on the following pages show the results of monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. As you can see by the data table, our system had no water quality violations for 2018.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination, either naturally occurring or manmade. Contamination of a ground water supply may occur as a result of a transportation or industrial spill on land near the area of the wells. Wellhead protection practices are in place to reduce the potential for groundwater contamination. Surface water contamination may result from a spill reaching the Ohio River or one of its tributaries. In the event of surface water contamination, the MTMA can utilize 100% well water until the river contamination has cleared.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable conalquien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact John Riley, MTMA General Manager, at 412-264-4300 ext. 114 between the hours 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Wink".

John J. Wink  
President

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

**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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).**

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. Organic contaminants can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public sewer system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Source water assessment and its availability

In 2009, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) approved the Source Water Protection Plan for our three (3) groundwater wells and surface water supply. These provide water to the MTMA Water Filtration Plant. The assessment has found that our sources are potentially susceptible to a spill from the CSX Railroad and PA Route 51 as the primary sources of contamination risk. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Pittsburgh Regional Office (412)442-4000 or on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (Keyword: "DEP source water"). You can also use the following Link:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average Moon Township household uses approximately 140 gallons of water per day or 55 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. **A leaking toilet losing just a ¼ gal per minute equals 360 gals/day or 131,400 gals/year causing a significant cost to you!**
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### Results of Cryptosporidium Monitoring

The MTMA was required by the EPA and Pa DEP to sample our raw water from the Ohio River for Cryptosporidium and Giardia monthly from October 2016 through September 2018. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. The MTMA Fern Hollow Water Plant has a multi-barrier system to remove Cryptosporidium including Granular Activated Carbon Filtration and UV disinfection. The following table shows results from MTMA testing of Ohio River source water.

CONTAMINANT	RESULT (OOCYSTS/L)	DATE SAMPLED	DATE ANALYZED
Cryptosporidium	0.273	01/17/17	01/20/17
Cryptosporidium	0.100	01/09/18	01/15/18
Cryptosporidium	0.100	06/12/18	06/21/18
Cryptosporidium	0.091	07/10/18	07/18/18
Cryptosporidium	0.182	09/11/18	09/21/18

# Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions on page 8.

Disinfectants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Level Detected	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Free Chlorine (ppm) (Entry Point) (Lowest level detected)	0.2 Minimum	4 Max.	0.39	0.39	2.04	2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Free Chlorine(ppm) (Distribution)(a)	0.2 Minimum	4 Max.	1.23	0.81	1.23	2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Disinfection By-Products Contaminants</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	19.7 LRAA	7.3	33.1	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	59 LRAA	23.8	104	2018	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>								
Contaminant	Range of % Removal Required	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Range of percent removal	Number of quarters out of compliance	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
TOC (% Removal) (Acc) (b)	25-35%	TT	27-39%	0	2018	No	Naturally present in the environment.	

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Low	High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.7	NA		2018	No	Discharge from petroleum refiners; fire retardants; electronics; ceramics; solder.
Fluoride (ppm) (c)	2	2	0.4	NA		2018	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.69	NA		2018	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Microbiological Contaminants**

Total Coliform (% positive samples/month)(d)	0	1	0	0	0	2018	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity (NTU) (Entry Point) (e)	0	<0.3	0.09	.02	0.09	2018	No	Soil runoff.

- (a) Free Chlorine in the distribution system is the monthly average of 40 samples. (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants).
- (b) Total Organic Carbon (TOC): The TOC quarterly monitoring samples meet the Alternative Compliance Criteria (Acc) requirement is for 25-35% removal. The organic carbon removal occurs at the WTP and is the difference between Raw and Finish water. Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects.
- (c) Fluoride concentration in your drinking water has a targeted residual of 0.6 ppm as recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additional Fluoride is added at the WTP to the natural source water to achieve 0.6 ppm.
- (d) There are 40 Total Coliform samples taken per month throughout the distribution system. A violation occurs if <40 samples/month are taken and there is more than 1 coliform positive monthly sample.
- (e) 95% of all NTU samples taken at the entry point to the distribution system must be below 0.3, a value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU is a TT violation.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	4.5	2016	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	<1.0	1.3	0.175	2016	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

**Note:** Lead & Copper testing for the Moon Township Municipal Authority occurred in the summer of 2016, 33 homes built after 1982 thru December 1988 were tested and the results shown above are the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile detection level. There are no lead service lines going to any of the homes, schools or businesses served by the Moon Township Municipal Authority.

### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Moon Township Municipal 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Additional Monitoring

The Unregulated Contaminants were tested in 2013 and 2014. The Moon Township Municipal Authority water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide, by using sound science, whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have the right to know the results of sampling. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact the MTMA office at (412)264-4300, or visit our office at 1700 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 200, Moon Twp.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
chlorate (ppb)	118	64	180
chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium) (ppb)	0.043	0.035	0.054
strontium (ppb)	140	0	200

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Entry Point	When potable water first enters the distribution system.
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	Byproduct of the disinfection of water. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average. Based on four quarters of sampling for each site.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
NA	NA: not applicable
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	The highest concentration of lead or copper in tap water that is exceeded by 10% of the sites sampled during the monitoring period. This value is compared to the lead and copper action levels (AL) to determine whether an (AL) has been exceeded.
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive for microbes.
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	Byproduct of the disinfection of water. 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 cancer.