

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
Highridge Water Authority

PWS ID#: 5650069



Our Commitment

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Highridge is committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain diligent in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report.

Water Sources of Highridge

The water system is currently supplied by a series of mountain reservoirs with a combined total raw water storage capacity of approximately 400 million gallons. These reservoirs, amid western Pennsylvania's Laurel Mountains, are located on Tubmill Creek south of New Florence and on Big Springs Run and Little Sugar Run outside the borough of Seward.

Route 217 North Projects

In 2024 Highridge completed a 13,000-foot waterline extension project to 47 residents in Burrell Township along State Route 217 North. Burrell Township designated \$400,000 in federal COVID relief funds, and Highridge received an \$850,000 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority through the efforts of State Senator Joe Pittman. Residents are delighted to finally have public water and fire protection for their homes. Subcontractors included Ligonier Construction, James Excavating, and Harvey Paving.



Meanwhile, residents in neighboring Blacklick Township with similar concerns of water quality and no fire protection have informed both their supervisors and Highridge of their desire for public water further along Route 217 North. Engineering designs indicate approximately 80 properties involving over 22,000 feet of pipe at a cost of over \$2.5 million. Highridge and Senator Pittman are seeking state funding for the project.

Additional Monitoring

Highridge participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791

Source Water Assessment

The greatest potential threats to Highridge's water supply sources are:

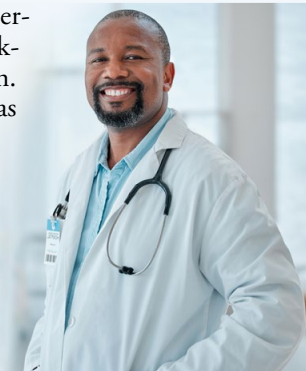
1. Accidents and spills along the roadways within the assessment area;
2. Potential contamination due to discharge from a small residential wastewater plant;
3. Potential nonpoint-source contamination associated with farming;
4. Activities using pesticides/herbicides, mining, logging, and road de-icing; and
5. Leaks or spills from an underground fuel storage tank.



A copy of the assessment can be viewed at Highridge's office at 17 Maple Avenue, Blairsville.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S.



Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 or epa.gov/safewater.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Colleen Marino, Executive Director, at (724) 459-8033.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Community Participation

Highridge Water Authority encourages its customers to participate in our meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the James F. Conway conference room at 17 Maple Avenue in Blairsville.

Drinking Water Safety

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.


For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

— BY THE NUMBERS —

 **3.4 BILLION** —
The daily volume in gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.

 **28%** —
The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.

 **99.99%** —
The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.

 **1.2 MILLION** —
The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S. delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.

 **1.7 MILLION** —
The number of jobs supported by the U.S. water sector.

Test Results

We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.032	0.031–0.032	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAH] (ppt)	2023	200	0	10	ND–23	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Chlorine [distribution] (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	1.11	0.54–1.11	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine [entry point] (ppm)	2024	MinRDL: SW=0.2/ GW=0.4	NA	0.9 ¹	0.9–1.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Cyanide (ppb)	2024	200	200	6	6–6	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Dalapon (ppb)	2023	200	200	0.5	ND–1	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights-of-way
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2024	0.060	NA	0.0183125	0.00346–0.0278	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	39.355	18.2–59.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2024	0.060	NA	0.00083	ND–0.00199	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	0.384	0.384–0.386	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC]	2024	TT ²	NA	0.9	ND–1.8	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	39.71	7.21–69	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.24	ND-0.24	No	Soil runoff

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

GW: Groundwater source.

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 (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.

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

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

SW: Surface water source.

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

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.059	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	ND	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppm)	2024	0.00359	ND–0.00629	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppm)	2024	0.03611	0.00721–0.0635	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2023	0.00054	0.00054–0.00054	Naturally present in the environment
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2024	0.02021	0.00709–0.0318	By-product of drinking water disinfection

¹The Amount Detected value for chlorine [entry point] represents the lowest level that was detected.

²The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Highridge is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Highridge. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Although most of Highridge’s water system has been identified as “no lead,” parts of the former Mace Springs Water Company in Bolivar and West Bolivar have yet to be identified. These two villages are mostly labeled as “lead status unknown.” More information is available at our office and at highridgewater.org/water-quality-info/ under Water Quality information. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.