ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

Highridge Water Authority

PWS ID#: 5650069

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Water Sources of Highridge Water Authority

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.

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
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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

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 Water Authority 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 in your water and wish to have it tested, contact Highridge Water Authority. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead in Home Plumbing - Service Line Inventory

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. 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 on our website under Water Quality information (highridgewater.org/water-quality-info/) and may also be viewed at our Blairsville office. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

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.

Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and pumped to the treatment plant where it is pressurized and the filtration and disinfection process begins. The water enters the plant and is introduced to chemicals to adjust pH levels, begin disinfection, oxidize any iron and manganese in the water, and initiate a coagulation process to create floc. Flocculation forces any debris or turbidity in the water to clump together to ensure our filters will retain the all the particles and only allow clean water to pass through. After initial chemical dosage and prior to filtration, water is forced through a mixer or agitator to ensure the filtration process is as efficient as possible. Next the water will enter our filters, which use a specific arrangement and type of limestones and sands to filter out all the particles that may be suspended in the water. When the water flows out the effluent side of the filters, it is clean and disinfected.

Chlorine is added again post filtration as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, additional chemicals are added as a final adjustment to pH and alkalinity, and a corrosion inhibitor (used to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized underground water mains and storage towers and into your home or business.

Q&A

Why can tap water have a taste?
Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?
Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

Why is maintaining water infrastructure important? Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?
Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

Community Participation

Highridge Water Authority (HWA) 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.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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 (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 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 and, 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; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or 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.

About Our Monitoring and Reporting Violations

During 2025 Highridge Water Authority was cited by DEP for monitoring/reporting notices related to total organic carbon (TOC) and chlorine. These were monitoring/reporting violations and not violations of a maximum contaminant level (MCL). The required information was reviewed, corrective action was taken, and compliance was achieved. Highridge continues to monitor treatment performance and reporting requirements to help prevent similar issues in the future.

Test Results

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)	2025	2	2	0.031	0.028–0.031	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)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.05	0.62–1.05	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine [entry point] (ppm)	2025	MinRDL: SW=0.2/GW=0.4	NA	0.7[1]	0.7–1.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Cyanide (ppb)	2024	200	200	6	NA	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)	2025	NS	NA	0.0147	0.0014–0.0347	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	32.642	0.247–71.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2025	NS	NA	0.00041	ND–0.0028	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.272	0.236–0.272	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2025	TT[2]	NA	1.0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80[3]	NA	44.5	18.6–85.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.11	NA	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 that a water system must follow.

GW: Groundwater source.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

NS: No standard.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.1	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	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)	2025	0.00404	0.00222–0.00753	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppm)	2025	0.04045	0.0164–0.0776	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2023	0.00054	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppm)	2025	0.01748	ND–0.0386	By-product of drinking water disinfection

[1] Lowest level detected.

[2] The 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.

[3] 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 system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria, such as coliforms, ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.