

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



***Presented By***



**CRANBERRY**  
TOWNSHIP

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

PWS ID#: 5100094

## Letter from the Board of Supervisors

To Our Customers,

It's a matter of fact: Cranberry Township's water is of excellent quality and exceeds state and federal standards. That has been a consistent statement the township has made over the past several decades. It's also confirmation that the process we use to gather, treat, and distribute water to our community is working to perfection.

However, not content with simply meeting regulations, the highly trained staff works each day to improve water quality even further and identify ways to improve efficiency. That includes using the newest methods and technology to protect recent investments in and upgrades to our system while simultaneously keeping it functioning at the highest level. While line breaks and repairs are routinely minimal, they are bound to occur. And when they do, our staff is prepared to identify issues early and fix them before they become larger and more expensive.

We take the task of providing residents and businesses with the best possible water very seriously. We will continue to work with our team of experts – including water quality specialists, lab scientists, plant operators, and our water supplier, West View Water Authority – to deliver the safest and highest-quality water to the residents of Cranberry Township. Our team aims to achieve that each day by relying on three basic principles:

- Safe – the product at the tap is at or above required standards.
- Clean – the product smells and tastes inviting for consumption.
- Reliable – no matter the time or conditions, water will run when a tap is turned.

We are proud to serve you and pleased to have the opportunity to work hard to ensure water service remains safe, clean, and reliable.

Sincerely,

Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors



### Community Participation

Cranberry Township is always eager to hear about matters concerning our water system. Meetings of the board of supervisors are normally scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the first and last Thursday of the month. An opportunity for public comment is always on the agenda, so please use this opportunity to engage with township officials.

### 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



### Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



### QUESTIONS?

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. We believe well-informed customers are important to the success of a community. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Manager of Plant Operations at (724) 776-4806 or complete the Contact Us form at [cranberrytownship.org/](http://cranberrytownship.org/). This report, along with those from previous years, is available at [cranberrytownship.org/WaterQualityReport](http://cranberrytownship.org/WaterQualityReport). Printed copies are also available upon request.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and Pennsylvania 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.



## Water Treatment Process

Before water arrives in Cranberry, it undergoes a series of treatments at the West View Water Authority plant in Baden. After screening at the plant's intake, the water is pumped from the intake building to the treatment facility, passing through an inline static mixer where various chemicals are added to adjust the pH, remove additional iron and manganese, help with the coagulation process, and provide chlorination treatment.

The treated water is then directed into two flocculation tanks, followed by two plate settler clarification units. The effluent of the sedimentation basins is directed to six dual-media gravity filters, combined, and sent through two ultraviolet disinfection units and into two clearwell tanks. The effluent of the clearwell tanks is combined, pH is adjusted for corrosion control, and the water is treated with chlorine for final disinfection and passed through a static mixer before powerful pumps send it on its way to Cranberry.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment of our source was completed by DEP. The assessment found that our water source is potentially most susceptible to transportation corridors, bridges, boating, marinas, barge traffic, auto repair shops, truck terminals, utility substations, residential developments, combined sewer overflows, road deicing, and salt storage. Overall, our source has a high risk of significant contamination. To view the assessment report, please visit <https://greenport.pa.gov/elibrary/GetFolder?FolderID=4492>.



## Test Results

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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Regulated Substances												
Cranberry Township					West View Water Authority Baden Plant			West View Water Authority Neville Plant				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source	
Chlorine [distribution] (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	0.3	0.3–2.2	1.15	1.15–1.75	1.32	1.32–1.87	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Chlorine [entry point] (ppm)	2023	MinRDL: SW=0.2/ GW=0.4	NA	0.93 <sup>1</sup>	0.93–2.54	1.36 <sup>1</sup>	1.36–2.08	1.46 <sup>1</sup>	1.46–2.13	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2	2	NA	NA	0.445	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	11.1	11.1–29.9	18.2	1–20	18.2	1.0–20	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	NA	NA	0.91	NA	0.759	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80 <sup>2</sup>	NA	21.3	21.3–92.9	63.5	1–73	63.5	1.0–73	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				Cranberry Township		West View Water Authority Baden Plant		West View Water Authority Neville Plant			
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.038	0/30	0.19	0/53	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	ND	0/30	4.3	0/53	NA	NA	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

## Secondary Substances

				Cranberry Township		West View Water Authority Baden Plant		West View Water Authority Neville Plant			
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.425	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NA	NA	NA	1.62	ND–1.62	1.62	ND–1.62	No	Leaching from natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> Lowest level detected.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Monitoring and Reporting Violations

Water systems are required to provide Tier 3 notifications when the system fails to monitor for contaminants within the proper time frame. In 2023 three incidents occurred. Although these incidents were not emergencies, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did (and are doing) to correct the situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards.

1. On June 1, 2023, we became aware that our system did not have an approved waiver for asbestos monitoring in the distribution system for 2020-2022. Upon notification, a sample was collected and submitted to DEP, and compliance status was reinstated.
2. June 2023. We are required to collect 50 total coliform samples per month. In June 50 samples were collected, but 1 was rejected by the laboratory due to a quality control issue. A follow-up sample was not collected for the month; therefore, only 49 samples were reported.
3. September 2023. We received notice that we failed to collect and report the required number of chlorine residual samples for a coliform check sample location. All samples were collected and reported correctly to our laboratory, but the lab miscoded them when they were reported to DEP. The correct code was provided to DEP.

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

### What is being done?

We will continue to collect samples according to our monitoring schedule and coordinate analysis and reporting with our laboratory. For more information, please contact Customer Service at (724) 776-4806 or 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

This notice is being sent to you by Cranberry Township, State Water System ID 5100094.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Cranberry Township purchases its entire water supply – 939 million gallons last year - from the West View Water Authority in Allegheny County. Cranberry has a state allocation permit to use up to 4.4 million gallons a day from the Ohio River for drinking water – an amount we are comfortably below. The township's water supply, which accounts for growth over the coming years - is secured through a 25-year agreement with West View. We are proud to be West View's largest customer. West View operates two treatment plants (Neville Island and Baden), both of which utilize water taken from the Ohio River.

## 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.

**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).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**SW:** Surface water source.

