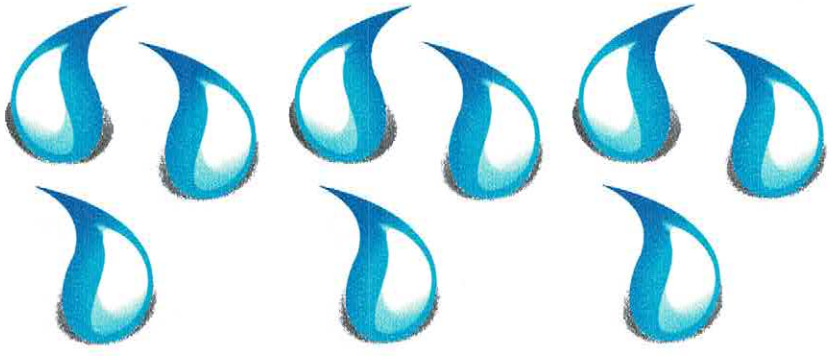
# Mercersburg Water Authority

## "Buck Run Water Treatment Plant"

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

# 2025 ANNUAL

# DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



## PWS #7280021

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

# 2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

## PWSID #: 7280021 NAME: Mercersburg Water Authority

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó 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 our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Mercersburg Borough office at 717-328-3116. 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 the third Thursday of each month at Borough Hall at 7:00 PM.

***SOURCE(S) OF WATER:***

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name-Type-Location)

Buck Run Reservoir (surface water)

Buck Run Well (groundwater) & Zimm Well (groundwater)

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to [insert potential Sources of Contamination listed in your Source Water Assessment]. Overall, our source(s) has/have [little, moderate, high] risk of significant contamination. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities and water suppliers.

> 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 to December 31, 2025. 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)

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

*ppb* = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

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

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

***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** |
| TTHM | 80 | 80 | 51.4 | 18.9 - 51.4 | mg/L | Quarterly | N | Disinfection By-Product |
| HAA5 | 60 | 60 | 61.4 | 21.6 - 61.4 | mg/L | Quarterly | Y | Disinfection By-Product |
| Arsenic | 10 | - | 0.008 | 0 - 0.008 | mg/L | 12/7/2022 | N | Chemicals that dissolve into water |
| Barium | 2.0 | - | 0.0363 | 0 - 0.0363 | mg/L | 9/23/2025 | N | Chemicals that dissolve into water |
| Nitrate | 10 | - | 1.02 | - | mg/L | Sept 2023 | N | Farm Fertilization |
| IOC/SOC | - | - | <1.0 | <0.5 - <1.0 | ug/L | Sep/Dec 2024 | N | Chemicals that dissolve into water |
| Chlorine (distribution) | 4.00 | - | 1.88 | 1.16 - 1.88 | mg/L | January 2025 | N | Disinfection additive |

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, 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** |
| Chlorine | 0.20 | 1.00 | 1.00 - 2.50 | ppm | 12/6/2025 | N | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| *Lead and Copper* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **Action Level (AL)** | **MCLG** | **90th Percentile Value** | **Range of tap sampling results** | **Units** | **# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites** | **Violation Y/N** | **Sources of Contamination** |
| Lead | 15 | 0 | 3.03 | 1.11 - 3.03 | ppb | 0/10 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.847 | 0.245 - 0.847 | ppm | 0/10 | 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 | N/A | 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 | N/A | 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=1 NTU for a single measurement | 0 | 0.314 | April 25 | N | Soil runoff |
| | TT= at least 95% of monthly samples≤0.3 NTU | | 99.899 | May 2025 | 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 | 20 | 28 - 31 | 0 | N | Naturally present in the environment |

***DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:***

HAA5 levels were elevated during the 2nd quarter of 2025, during a boil water advisory event. System flushing was completed and chlorine residuals were lowered. Levels reduced significantly during the 3rd and 4th quarter analysis.

***OTHER VIOLATIONS:***

17262 - Alkalinity samples were reported late to PADEP due to laboratory related issues (1Q2025).

17263 - TOC samples were reported late to PADEP due to laboratory related issues (1Q2025).

25592 - Alkalinity samples were reported late to PADEP due to laboratory related issues (2Q2025).

25593 - TOC samples were reported late to PADEP due to laboratory related issues (2Q2025).

03289 - Did not collect required amount of distribution system bacteria samples (November 2025)

27819 - Late reporting for bacteria samples due to laboratory related issues (July 2025)

24996 - Did not collect required amount of distribution system bacteria samples (June 2025)

Violations 03289 & 24996 occurred during boil water advisory conditions - the Authority collected numerous bacteria samples; however boil water advisory samples are considered "special samples" and do not count as part of the permit required samples, thereby generating a violation.

***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,

pennsylvania
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# Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Certification Form

Name of CWS: Mercersburg Water Authority PWSID Number: 7280021

The community water system (CWS) named above confirms that its CCR for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 has been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). The system also confirms that the information in the CCR is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**Please check at least one of the following required items that apply to your CCR delivery**.

☐ CCR was hand-delivered to customers. Date delivered: _____

☐ CCR was distributed by mail. Date mailed: _____

☒ CCR was distributed by other direct delivery method(s). (Check all that apply): Posted to Website

- ☐ Mail notification that CCR is available on website via a direct uniform resource locator (URL)*
  Direct URL address: www._____ Date mailed: _____
- ☐ E-mail – direct URL to CCR*
- ☐ E-mail – CCR sent as an attachment to the e-mail*
- ☐ E-mail – CCR sent embedded in the e-mail*

  } Date(s) email sent: _____

* If the CCR was provided electronically, attach a description of how a customer requests a paper copy.

**Please check any of the following additional items that apply to your CCR delivery.**

☒ "Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers:

- ☒ posting the CCR on the Internet at www.mercersburg.org
- ☐ mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area (attach a list of zip codes used)
- ☐ advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of announcement)
- ☐ publication of CCR in local newspaper (attach copy of newspaper announcement)
- ☒ posting the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations) Office Lobby
- ☐ delivery of multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several persons
- ☐ delivery to community organizations (attach a list)
- ☐ electronic newsletter or listserv (attach a copy of the article or notice)
- ☒ electronic announcement of CCR availability via social media outlets (attach list of outlets utilized) Rave System

☐ The CCR was posted on a publicly-accessible Internet site because this system serves 100,000 or more.
Internet site address: www._____

☐ Delivered CCR to other agencies as required by the state/primacy agency (attach a list).

☒ A copy of the CCR and a completed CCR Certification Form have been sent to the DEP district office (or the Allegheny County Health Department) that provides oversight and support of this water system. (See back of form for addresses.)

**Certified by:** Signature: _____ Print Name: Ed Twine

Title: Authority Chairman Phone: 717-328-3116 Date: _____

***For DEP use only. Checked by:*** _____ ***Date:*** _____

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**

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. [NAME OF UTILITY] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and it 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, 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 your water tested, contact [NAME OF UTLITY and CONTACT INFORMATION]. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

***OTHER INFORMATION:***

Our staff works diligently to provide the best water possible. Communications with PADEP regarding plant operations and distribution system matters, as well as upgrade project matters, occurs regularly. We also communicate frequently with Chambersburg Borough regarding water availability.

We prepared a service line inventory of our system that includes the type of materials contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed online at mercersburg.org or by contacting our office at 717-328-3116.