

# Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

## 2010 Annual Water Quality Report

### Furnace Run System

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

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) acquired the Ligonier Municipal Authority's (LMA) drinking water treatment and distribution system on January 1, 2007. The MAWC appreciates the opportunity to provide this report to you. Specifically, this report provides information on the quality of water delivered to your home and/or business during calendar year 2010. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of your drinking water, its constituents, and the potential health risks associated with any contaminants detected. Safe water is vital to your community. Please read this report carefully. If you have questions concerning this report, please contact the MAWC at 724/755-5920.

#### SOURCE WATER INFORMATION

The primary source for your drinking water is the Mellon Wells located in Ligonier Township near Laughlintown. These wells draw from the Mauch Church aquifer. Additionally, surface waters are drawn from the Furnace Run Reservoir to supplement groundwater sources on an as needed basis. Raw water from the aforementioned source is treated at the Furnace Run Water Treatment Plant which operates under PADEP Public Water Supply Permit No. 6592501.

#### A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERELY WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

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. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control 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 1-800-426-4791.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

- Your doctor or other healthcare professional
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at (800) 342-2437; or on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cryptosporidiosis/default.htm>
- United States Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at 412/442-4000 or on-line at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/WSM/WSM-DWM/Complian/protozoa.htm>

## EXPLANATION OF THE WATER-QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table presented herein shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the major sources of the contaminants and footnotes explaining the words and abbreviations used in the table. Many tests were conducted for other parameters including trace metals, radioactive particles, pesticides, herbicides, and numerous organic chemicals such as industrial wastes and solvents. There was no detection of these contaminants.

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to 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 contaminant. **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectant to control microbial contamination. **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, may trigger additional treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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.

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 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 storm 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

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

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If you have questions or comments concerning the information presented in this report or other aspects of the MAWC's operations, please contact at 724/755-5920. Likewise, you may visit our web site at [www.mawc.org](http://www.mawc.org). Furthermore, the MAWC Board of Directors meets at noon on the second Thursday of each month at the New Stanton Office located at 124 Park and Pool Road, New Stanton, PA 15672 unless otherwise publicized in the Pittsburgh/Greensburg Tribune Review. MAWC Board meetings are open to the public.

				Furnace Run System		
CONTAMINANT	UNIT	MCL	MCLG	Date Tested	Detected Level	Range
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>						
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	2010	0.18	(b) (d)
No. of samples over the Action level					0	
Lead	ppb	15	0	2010	< 2.0	(b) (d)
No. of samples over the Action level					0	
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	2010	<1.0	(a)
Nitrite	ppm	1	1	2010	<0.005	(a)
Total Chlorine Residual		TT				
Entry Point (Minimum)	ppm	0.4		2010	0.60	
Entry Point (Maximum)	ppm	4		2010	1.77	
Distribution	ppm	MRDL 4		2010	RAA 0.89	
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	0	2010	3.1	0 - 7.5
HAA 5	ppb	60	0	2010	2.1	1.2 - 3.9
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>						
Bacteria		>1.0%		2010	A	0%
Turbidity	NTU	0.3	0	2010	0.11	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)					Range required	Range Achieved
				2010	35%	10 - 56 %
<b>RADIOACTIVE</b>						
Gross Alpha Particles	pCi/L	15	0	2011		
Gross Beta Particles	mR/yr	4	0	2011		
Comb. Radium (226+228)	pCi/L	5	1.99	2011		
Uranium	ug/l	30	0	2011		

Water-Quality Table Footnotes

- (a) Only one sample was required per monitoring period.
- (b) No samples were detected above action level.
- (c) 100% of samples in compliance.
- (d) Samples met 90th percentile compliance and did not exceed action levels.

ND = None Detected

A = Bacteria absence

RAA= Running Annual Average

MRDL= Maximum Residual Disinfection Level

TT= Treatment Technique

**Required Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) statement addressing Lead in Drinking Water**

"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. MAWC 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>."