

## **WATER QUALITY REPORT**

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

### **VULNERABLE POPULATION**

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 /Center for Disease Control (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.

### **ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Authority is pleased to provide you with its annual Water Quality Report based on 2016 calendar year data. We want our customers to be informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the last year. The Authority's goal is to provide its customers with a dependable supply of drinking water, and our drinking water meets or exceeds Federal and State standards. Richland Water purchases water from West View Water Authority. West View's source water is surface water taken from an intake structure on the Ohio River. West View treats the water and adds chlorine or chloramines to kill bacteria, uses UV Disinfection to inactivate harmful pathogens, adds fluoride to aid in the prevention of tooth decay and uses sodium hydroxide to pH stabilize the water. More information on how West View treats the water is available in West View's Water Quality Report at [www.westviewwater.org](http://www.westviewwater.org).

### **DRINKING WATER FACTS**

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 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.

In order 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **MONITORING**

*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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.*

## 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. Richland Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

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## WATER QUALITY DATA

The table on the facing page lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2016 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2016. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. Richland Water samples for bacteria, chlorine, copper, haloacetic acids, lead and trihalomethanes. Other sampling is performed by West View Water. Definitions are included to help you understand the terms and abbreviations used in the table.

### DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level(MCL)— the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG 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 Level Goal(MRDLG)- the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

MinRDL(MinRDL) -the minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system

Treatment Technique(TT) - a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

ppm—parts per million

ppb—parts per billion

n/a—not applicable

NTU(Nephelometric turbidity unit)—measure of the clarity of water

| Inorganic Contaminants<br>(unit of measurement) | Date Tested | MCL | MCLG | Level Detected | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant  |
|---|-------------|-----|------|----------------|-----------|--|
| Barium (ppm)                                    | 2/1/16      | 2   | 2    | 0.03           | NO        | discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits                          |
| Fluoride (ppm)                                  | 2/1/16      | 2   | 2    | 0.7            | NO        | discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive for dental health |
| Nitrate (ppm)                                   | 7/20/16     | 10  | 10   | 0.7            | NO        | runoff from fertilizer use; septic leaching ; erosion of natural deposits          |
| Nitrite (ppm)                                   | 7/20/16     | 1   | 1    | 0              | NO        | runoff from fertilizer use; septic leaching ; erosion of natural deposits          |

| Contaminant | Date Tested | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Highest Detect | Lowest Percentage | Date  | Violation | Source      |
|-------------|-------------|------|-----|------|----------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| Turbidity   | 2016        | NTU  | TT* | 0    | 0.078          | 100%              | 09/16 | NO        | soil runoff |

| Contaminant          | Date Tested | Unit     | %Removal Required | %Removal Achieved | Violation | # Quarters out of compliance |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Total Organic Carbon | 2016        | %Removed | 25–35%            | 36–71%            | NO        | 0                            |

| Disinfectants—<br>Distribution system | Date Tested | MRDL | MRDLG | Highest Monthly Average | Range of Monthly Averages | Violation | Source                                  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------|-------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---|
| Chlorine(ppm)                         | Year 2016   | 4    | 4     | 1.58                    | 0.4-1.58                  | NO        | water additive used to control microbes |

| Lead & Copper | Date Tested | Action level | MCLG | 90th  | Range              | Violation | Source                              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|------|-------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Copper(ppm)   | June 2016   | 1.3          | 1.3  | 0.13  | No homes exceed AL | NO        | corrosion of house plumbing systems |
| Lead (ppb)    | June 2016   | .015         | 0    | .0029 | No homes exceed AL | NO        | corrosion of house plumbing systems |

| Disinfection Byproducts             | Year Tested | MCL | MCLG | Highest Running Average | Range     | Violation | Source                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic acids(HAA) (ppb)         | Year 2016   | 60  | n/a  | 16.0                    | 8.0–17.7  | NO        | byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) | Year 2016   | 80  | n/a  | 46.1                    | 24.8-58.0 | NO        | byproduct of drinking water disinfection |

**TABLE NOTES**

\* 100% of monthly samples <0.3 NTU      \*\* Although the percentage of removal is less than 35%, West View meets the alternative compliance criteria for Total Organic Carbon.

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*Web sites for more information*

*[www.achd.net/pdw/pdw.html](http://www.achd.net/pdw/pdw.html)*

*[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)*

*[www.depweb.state.pa.us/watersupply](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/watersupply)*

**Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Authority office on Kramer Road. Customers are encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings.**

**Current Board members are:**

**Chairman—G. Kane, Jr.**

**Vice Chairman—B. O'Malley**

**Secretary— M. Funk**

**Treasurer—W. Haas**

**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer—R. Sabo**

If you have any questions about this report or about the Richland Water Authority, please contact Susan McHale at 724-443-9100 or [rtmaac@richlandwaterauthority.com](mailto:rtmaac@richlandwaterauthority.com)

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## PLEASE HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER

**Reminder**—West View uses chloramines as disinfectants seasonally. More information is available on the Authority's website.

**Contact Information**—Please keep your telephone contact information up to date. We have an automated dialing system for notifying you of water emergencies but it only works if we have accurate telephone numbers. If you discontinue your land line or make other changes, please let us know.

**Payment Options**— Just a reminder direct debit is available for paying your water bill and credit and debit card payments are accepted online through the Authority's website. There is a convenience fee with credit/debit card payments.

**Water Break Liability**—Check your homeowner's policy to see if you have a rider that provides coverage when a water line break causes damage to your property. Letters were sent to all customers during the year regarding liability when main water lines break. Please contact the office if you would like another copy of the letter.

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