

JUNE 2011

# QUALITY ON TAP

**"Hollidaysburg Borough Authority Water Quality Report for the 2010 Report Year"**

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

The Hollidaysburg Borough Authority is pleased to present to you this year's *"Quality on Tap"*, *Hollidaysburg Borough Authority Water Quality Report for the 2010 Report Year*. This report has been prepared in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency and PA Department of Environmental Protection guidelines and is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Authority is pleased to announce that, once again in 2010, the Authority met all MCL, and treatment technique performance requirements and the water provided to its customers was in conformance with the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

## OUR WATER SYSTEM

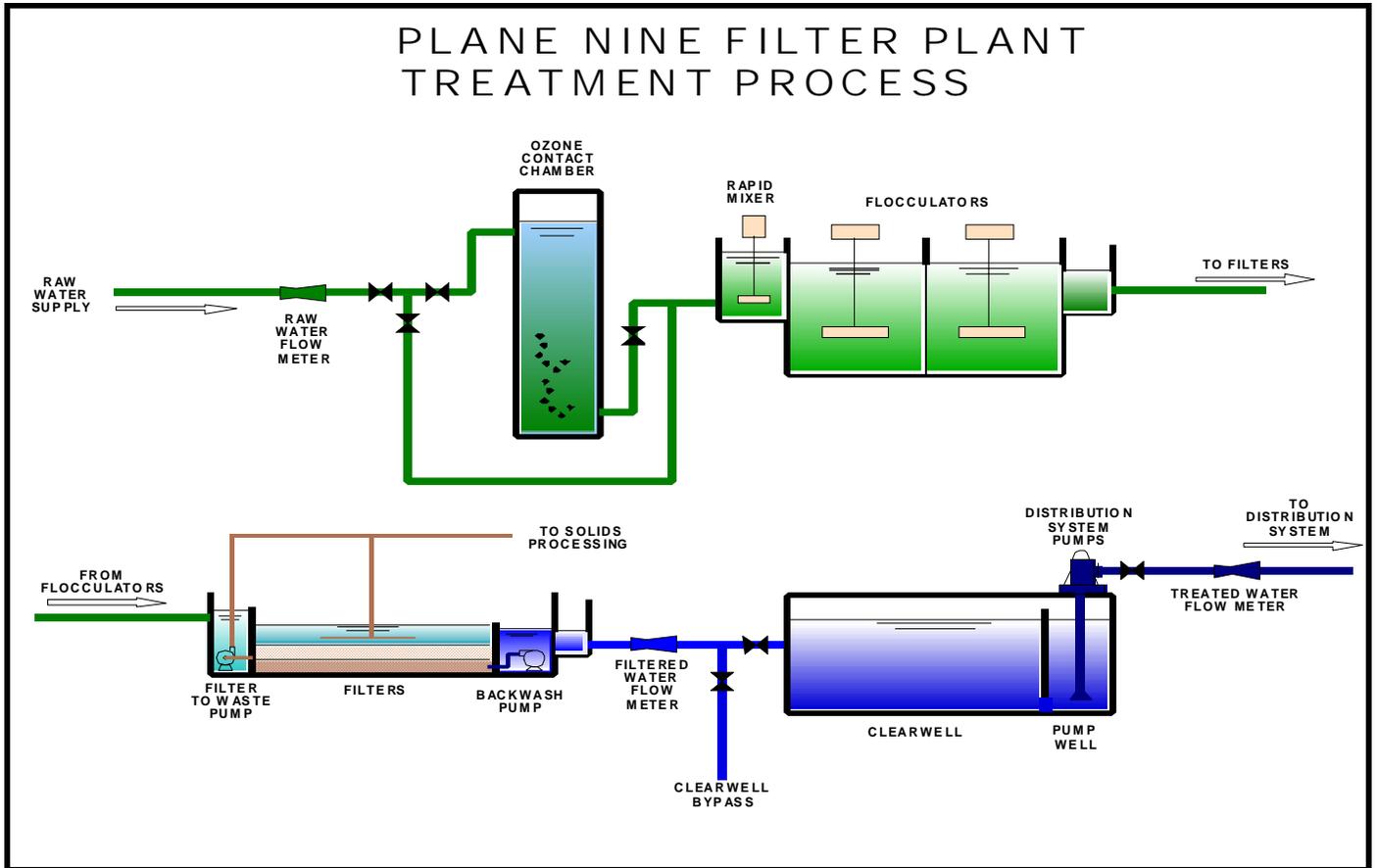


The Hollidaysburg water system is a consecutive system of the Altoona City Authority (ACA) water system, which means we purchase our treated water from the ACA for distribution to our customers in the Hollidaysburg Borough Authority (HBA) system. The primary source of supply for the water provided to the Hollidaysburg Borough Authority originates from two surface water reservoirs, the Muleshoe Reservoir, which is owned by the HBA, and the Plane Nine Reservoir, which is owned and operated by the ACA. Both reservoirs are located on Cresson Mountain in Juniata Township, Blair County. The Plane Nine Reservoir is situated along the south side of Old Rt 22, approximately 3 miles west of Duncansville. The Muleshoe Reservoir is located upstream from the Plane Nine Reservoir, in a forest area approximately 1/4 mile south of Old Rt 22, just past the Muleshoe overpass of Old Rt 22. Raw (untreated) water is drawn from both reservoirs and is blended, filtered and treated at the ACA Plane Nine Filtration Plant. The Plane Nine Plant is located immediately below the Plane Nine Reservoir. The treated water is then pumped into the transmission system for distribution to, and consumption by, both the customers of the ACA system and the HBA system.

Water entering the Plane Nine Treatment plant is first treated with ozone to destroy bacteria and other organisms and to reduce other organic materials that naturally occur in the water. The water is then passed through sand filters to remove sediment and other particles. The filtered water is then treated with a corrosion inhibitor to reduce its ability to react with the water distribution pipes and customers' plumbing systems. Finally, chlorine is applied to the water to provide disinfection of the water during its travels through the distribution system and into our customer's plumbing systems.

Because the HBA water system is inter-connected to the ACA water distribution system, water is also available, during times of emergency and drought, from the many other sources of the ACA, including several other surface water reservoirs within the ACA system. Since there is a potential for water to be provided to the HBA system from these alternative sources and since water may potentially pass through the interconnection, results of analysis conducted on these other sources of supply, have also been provided in this report.





A source water assessment of the Plane Nine and Muleshoe Reservoir intakes, which supply water to the Plane Nine Filtration Plant, was completed in 2003 by the PA DEP. The assessment has found that the intakes are potentially most susceptible to transportation corridor (hiway) contaminants and illegal dumping, while a minor susceptibility exists for contamination from natural gas pipelines, public use, abandoned mine land and natural gas wells within the respective watershed areas. A summary of the report is available on the DEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (Keyword: DEP source water). Copies of the complete report are also available from the Southcentral Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (717) 705-4732.

## 2010 WATER QUALITY TABLE



The HBA and the ACA routinely monitor, and test, for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of monitoring conducted by either the HBA or the ACA for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and shows results for every regulated contaminant detected in the water, even in the most minute traces. Some of the data in the table may be from test results obtained from prior years, in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and these dates are noted on the table where applicable. Concentrations of such contaminants do not change frequently in the source water and annual monitoring is not necessary to safeguard the quality of water. The table also contains the nature of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation, the ideal goals for public health the amount detected and the usual sources of contamination. In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. Please refer to the Glossary to help you better understand these terms and abbreviations. It should also be noted that additional contaminants have been tested for during 2010 which were not detected to be present in the water. These have been listed at the bottom of the table page.

See next page please .....



Please Refer to the Table Link on the main report page.

## WATER QUALITY AND HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION

The Hollidaysburg Borough Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations which limit the amounts of contaminants in water provided by public systems. These agencies require monitoring of the water to ensure that your drinking water does not exceed certain Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's). These MCL's are set at very stringent levels for the protection of public health. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contaminants that are naturally occurring or man-made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. Drinking water, including bottled drinking 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The sources of drinking water, including both tap 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 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, stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Potential Health Effects of Various Contaminants

**Turbidity:** Interferes with disinfection. May provide a medium for microbial growth. May indicate a presence of disease causing organisms.

**Barium:** Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years, could experience an increase in blood pressure.

**Copper:** Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level may cause gastrointestinal distress over the short term and liver or kidney damage over a period of many years.

**Fluoride:** Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease and pain and tenderness of the bones. In children, excess fluoride may cause mottling of the teeth.

**Lead:** Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could develop kidney and high blood pressure problems. Children who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in physical and mental development.

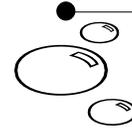
**Nitrate:** Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, in untreated, may die. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, and blue baby syndrome.

**Chlorine:** Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

**Trihalomethanes and Halogenated Acetic Acids:** Some people who drink water containing these contaminants in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous systems, and may have an increase risk of getting cancer.

### Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. *Cryptosporidium* are microbial pathogens found in surface water throughout the U.S. Over a two year period from April 2007 to April 2009, the ACA took 168 samples for cryptosporidium at all source water reservoirs. The analysis identified a total of 7 crypto sized cysts. All of ACA's treatment processes use ozone which inactivates cryptosporidium; they also have chlorine, flocculation and filtration, all of which is a barrier for cryptosporidium. Also the Dept. of Environmental Protection conducts Filter Plant Performance Evaluations at ACA's facilities on a regular basis and has never found cryptosporidium in the finished water. Unregulated Contaminates were tested at all ACA Water Treatment facilities from December 2008 to September 2009. The results from the analysis was none detected. All results are on file and are available at the Andronic Pappas Water Treatment Plant. 814-944-2597



## GLOSSARY

*The following are definitions of terms and abbreviations used throughout this report and in the Water Quality Tables*

**ACA** - Altoona City Authority

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

**CDC** - United States Centers for Disease Control

**DEP** - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

**Flocculate** - Water treatment process whereby fine sediment and other particles are gathered together to form larger particles in order to improve the ability of the water filtration process to remove the particles.

**HBA** - Hollidaysburg Borough Authority

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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.

**MRLD** - 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.

**MRLDG** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MDRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Mrem/yr** - Millirems per year. Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**N/A** - Not Applicable.

**ND** - Non-Detects. Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Treatment Technique** - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

**Turbidity** - The measurement of cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of filtration.

**PLEASE PROTECT...** We at the Hollidaysburg Borough Authority water system continuously strive to provide top water quality to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect our water sources. Please exercise care and caution if hiking, hunting or traveling through the water shed areas of the Muleshoe and Plane Nine Reservoirs so that these sources of water supply do not become contaminated by activities in the watershed. Please also report immediately, to the HBA, any littering, spills or dumping that may impact the watershed areas and notify the Hollidaysburg Borough Police of any suspicious or unusual activities that may be observed in or around the reservoir sites or their respective watershed areas.

**AND CONSERVE....** The Authority would also request that customers conserve our water resources by conserving water in the home and at places of work. Repair leaks in your home, such as dripping faucets and leaks inside of the toilet as soon as they are discovered. Leaks, even small faucet drips, can waste significant amounts of water. Leaks inside a toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day, or more. Test for leaks in a toilet by placing a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl (without flushing), the toilet is leaking. If you have a leaking faucet, a simple replacement of a rubber washer may save gallons of water from being wasted down the drain. In addition, hot water leaks waste not only water, but energy to heat the water. Please consider the following tips for conserving water around the home:

Install low consumption toilets (1.6 gal/flush) when remodeling or during new construction; place a weighted plastic jug in the toilet tank to displace and save an equal amount of water with each flush; install low-flow aerators on all faucets and low-flow shower heads on the shower spigot; turn the water off while brushing teeth and shaving; take showers instead of baths and turn off water while soaping or shampooing; refrigerate a bottle of water instead of letting faucet water flow until water is cold enough to drink; do not pre-rinse dishes prior to loading in the dishwasher; operate the washing machine and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded; use the proper water level or load size selection on washing machines; when purchasing a washing machine, consider water consumption ratings as well as energy efficiency; use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks; wash the car with water from a bucket and if a hose is used, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle; water the lawn and garden during the coolest part of the day; do not water on windy days; set sprinklers to water lawn and garden areas only and not the street or sidewalk; consider using soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems to reduce evaporation loss, mulch around trees and shrubs; and use native plants in landscaping since they require less care and water than ornamental varieties.

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## **CURRENT OCCUPANT**

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**Thank you...** for allowing us to continue to provide your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements to the system that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. We thank you for your understanding when such adjustments are necessary. Please contact our office if you should have any questions concerning this report or the HBA water system in general.

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

If you have any questions about this report, or questions concerning the Hollidaysburg Borough Authority or the water system in general, you may contact:

**Rick Pope, Borough of Hollidaysburg**  
401 Blair Street, Hollidaysburg PA 16648  
695-7543, weekdays, 8AM to 4PM  
[rpope@hollidaysburgpa.org](mailto:rpope@hollidaysburgpa.org)  
[www.hollidaysburgpa.org](http://www.hollidaysburgpa.org)



We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 5:15 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, 401 Blair Street, Hollidaysburg.