

# CRESWELL HEIGHTS JOINT AUTHORITY

## Public Water Supply ID# 5040063

### Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2010

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.)

This report 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 that meets all federal and state requirements. Our water comes from three (3) area wells. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination, either naturally occurring or man made. These contaminants may be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

#### **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.
- 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, 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).

A Source Water Assessment of our Sources(s) was completed in 2003 by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Assessment found that our sources are potentially most susceptible to contamination from power plants, railroads, river transportation, and roadway. Overall, our sources have high risk of significant contamination. Summary reports of the Assessment are available by writing to Creswell Heights Joint Authority, PO Box 301, South Heights, PA 15081 and will be available at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Pittsburgh Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (412) 442-4000.

**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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows what we detected in our water during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

**Definitions and Abbreviations:**

**ppm**=Parts per million or milligrams per Liter (mg/L)

**ppb**=Parts per billion or micrograms per Liter (µg/L)

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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** - The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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 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 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.

**TEST RESULTS**

Contaminant	Date Sampled	Units	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids	September 2010	ppb	No	7.0	(a)	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Copper	July-August 2010	ppm	No	1.03(b)	0.113-1.28	1.3	AL-1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Chlorine	15 Samples monthly	ppm	No	0.69	0.39-0.69	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Additive to control microbes
Lead	July-August 2010	ppb	No	0.0	0-39.4	0	AL-15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	June 2010	ppm	No	0.39	(a)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes	September 2010	ppb	No	65.3	(a)	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrite	June 2010	ppm	No	0.05	(a)	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

**Footnotes:**

- (a) Only one sample collected. All samples were taken on the dates shown. The results are from the latest samples required by regulations
- (b) These are the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile results. 1 of 30 lead and 0 of 30 copper samples exceeded the AL.

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. CHJA 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>.

**Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Creswell Heights Joint Authority**

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Daniel Losco at (724) 375-1303 or PO Box 301, South Heights, PA 15081.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
(ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER. TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.)**

**Monitoring requirements not met by the Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority**

Our water system violated Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Regulations by not doing all the required monitoring during the fourth quarter of 2010. The required monitoring was not completed because a notification e-mail was sent by the PADEP and quarantined in our computer security software. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct this 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 or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did not complete all of the required monitoring for Disinfection By-Products (Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids) during the fourth quarter of 2010, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water at that time.

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. The table below lists the contaminant we did not sample, how often we are supposed to sample and how many samples are supposed to be taken, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which the follow up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	When All Samples Should have been Taken	When Samples Were or Will Be Taken
Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids	One sample per calendar quarter	October – December, 2010	02/24/2011

**What happened? What was done?**

Our third quarter sample for Total Trihalomethanes did not exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level; however, it was elevated enough to increase our system's monitoring requirements to quarterly. We shall begin quarterly monitoring immediately. You will be informed if any of these samples exceed the maximum levels permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of environmental Protection. For more information please contact: Daniel Losco at 724-375-6155.

*Please share this information with all of the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or e-mail.*

**Conclusion**

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 that are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the authority office located at North and Jordan Streets. If you have any questions, please contact the CHJA office at (724) 375-1303 Monday through Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

**Creswell Heights Joint Water Authority**  
Daniel Losco, General Manager