



P.O. Box 1659 • Lansdale, PA 19446  
Ph: 215-855-3617  
This report is also available online at  
[www.northpennwater.org](http://www.northpennwater.org)

NPWA water meets or exceeds all State and Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

**2013**

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is being mailed to you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

PWSID#1460034

*"A dedicated, professional workforce committed to providing the community with a safe, reliable, and economical water supply."*

### FOREST PARK WATER

The source of water that is treated at Forest Park Water, which is jointly owned by North Penn and North Wales Water Authorities, is the North Branch Neshaminy Creek. The North Branch Neshaminy Creek originates as a small stream near Route 413 in Central Bucks County. The creek then flows into Lake Galena, which is the reservoir for Forest Park Water. Water released from Lake Galena flows down the Neshaminy Creek to where it is drawn into the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant, in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. In the summer months and times of low flow, water is pumped from the Delaware River at Point Pleasant and diverted into the North Branch Neshaminy Creek near Gardenville, Pennsylvania. This diversion controls the level of Lake Galena for recreational purposes, ensures a sufficient drinking water supply, and maintains baseflow in the stream.

Forest Park is a state of the art water treatment facility that combines conventional treatment processes with advanced techniques, which include ozone disinfection and membrane filtration. Membrane filtration is a

leading-edge technology capable of consistently producing very high quality water and ensures the plant can safely meet the more stringent federal and state water quality regulations that will be required in the near future. This combination of traditional and innovative water treatment allows Forest Park to produce the safest, highest quality water possible. In 2013, Forest Park Water received the prestigious Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award presented by the PA DEP. The award recognizes outstanding efforts toward optimizing turbidity removal performance. AWOP is a national filter plant optimization effort among 22 states, the EPA, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. The AWOP Award and Forest Park Water's on-going participation in the "Partnership for Safe Water", a voluntary program administered by the American Water Works Association, demonstrate Forest Park Water's continuing commitment to operational excellence.

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# PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or visiting their website at **[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)**.

## HEALTH EFFECTS INFORMATION

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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. North Penn Water Authority 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at **[www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)**.

In our unregulated contaminant assessment monitoring performed **March 2009 – April 2010**, metolachlor ESA was detected in 1 out of 15 wells that were monitored. It was not detected in any of the four samples collected at the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. Metolachlor ESA is a degradation product of metolachlor which is a broad spectrum herbicide used for general weed control in non-crop areas. It is also widely used on

crops such as corn, cotton, peanuts, grass for seed production, nurseries, hedgerows/fencerows, and landscape plantings. N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) was detected in 1 out of 4 samples collected at the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. Nitrosamines can form as intermediates and byproducts in chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and plastics. Foods such as bacon and malt beverages can contain nitrosamines and there is evidence that they can form in the upper GI tract. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. The next round of unregulated contaminant assessment monitoring (UCMR 3) began at the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant in February 2014 and will continue through 2015. Monitoring at NPWA wells will begin in January 2015. If you would like to obtain a copy of the results prior to the mailing of our 2014 Annual Water Quality Report, please contact Marianne Morgan, Community Relations Coordinator, at **(215) 855-3617**.

*Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* are microbial pathogens found in surface water throughout the U.S. Monitoring of our source water (before treatment) at Forest Park Water (FPW) indicated the presence of *Giardia* in 1 out of 11 samples collected. *Cryptosporidium* was not detected in any of the 11 samples collected. FPW treatment processes are designed to remove or inactivate *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* cysts with a high level of certainty. Current available test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. NPWA encourages immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

# 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 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 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 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 PA DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and PA 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or visiting their website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Below is a list of contaminants which NPWA monitored for in 2013 but DID NOT DETECT:

### Inorganic Contaminants

Asbestos	Mercury
Antimony	Nickel
Beryllium	Nitrite
Cadmium	Selenium
Cyanide	Thallium

### Regulated Volatile Organic Contaminants

1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Carbon tetrachloride	Styrene
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Chlorobenzene	Toluene
1,1-Dichloroethylene	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Dichloromethane	Trichloroethylene
1,2-Dichloroethane	Ethylbenzene	Vinyl Chloride
1,2-Dichloropropane	o-Dichlorobenzene	Xylenes, total
Benzene	p-Dichlorobenzene	

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants

Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate  
Pentachlorophenol  
Simazine

### Microbiological Contaminants Monitored in Distribution System

E. coli

### Microbiological Contaminants Monitored in Source Water at Forest Park Water

Cryptosporidium



# NORTH PENN WATER AUTHORITY

## 2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

**Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable.  
Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.**

**Owners of multiple family dwellings, commercial businesses, public housing, or similar situations, are encouraged to post and/or distribute this report. Additional copies are available and can be obtained at North Penn Water Authority's operations center or by calling (215) 855-3617.**

**This report is also available online at [www.northpennwater.org](http://www.northpennwater.org).**

**NPWA water meets or exceeds all State and Federal  
Safe Drinking Water Act standards.**

North Penn Water Authority (NPWA) is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. The Authority's staff of professionals is dedicated to ensuring that our customers receive a safe, economical, and continuous supply of water.

In 2013, approximately 85% of the water that NPWA delivered to its customers was treated surface water from the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant located in Chalfont. NPWA operated 12 groundwater wells located throughout our service territory, in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

NPWA routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. These tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1 to December 31, 2013. These tables contain the most recent data used to assure compliance with Federal and State laws. All data is from 2013 unless otherwise indicated.**

While NPWA tests for over 100 contaminants to ensure water quality, only detected values of contaminants are included in the table of this report. A list of contaminants that NPWA monitors for but were not detected is in a separate portion of this report. 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, though representative, are more than one year old.

It is important for our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or regarding your water utility, please contact Marianne Morgan, Community Relations Coordinator, at **(215) 855-3617** or visit our website at **[www.northpennwater.org](http://www.northpennwater.org)**. If you want to learn more about NPWA, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings. Meetings are held on **the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Authority's operations center located near the intersection of Forty Foot and Allentown Roads, in Towamencin Township. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.**

# HOW NPWA IS PROTECTING THE WATER YOU DRINK

To enhance water quality, NPWA performs an annual hydrant flushing program which takes place in the spring of each year. This flushing program helps improve water quality by removing any possible build-up of mineral deposits from the inside of water distribution pipes. NPWA also has an aggressive water main replacement program to improve the quality of water that we deliver to our customers. Old unlined cast iron mains, that can affect water quality and restrict flow, are replaced on a regular basis. These projects are scheduled when Penn DOT or our member municipalities are doing work on the roads to reduce inconvenience to the community.

In 2011, NPWA became the first water utility in Pennsylvania to join American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Distribution System Optimization Program. This program is part of AWWA's Partnership for Safe Water whose objective is to identify opportunities for improvement in system operations and to empower system operators with knowledge to recognize and apply procedures that result in water quality and system reliability improvements. NPWA's participation in this voluntary program demonstrates our commitment to providing the best quality water to our customers.

The Authority has continued to work proactively to protect its sources of water. The North Branch Watershed Association (NBWA) provides educational speakers at meetings, performs riparian buffer plantings, stream cleanups and supports township and county endeavors to mark stream input locations on roadways and private areas. NBWA is dedicated to protecting the North Branch of the Neshaminy Creek, which provides approximately 85% of North Penn Water Authority's source water. Any individuals wishing to become involved in the North Branch Watershed Association may contact Marianne Morgan at the Authority at **215-855-3617** or Meghan Rogalus, Watershed Specialist at Bucks County Conservation District at **215-345-7577, ext. 107**.

In 2009, NPWA's Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program was approved by the PA DEP. The Authority's WHP Program meets the requirements for a local WHP Program in accordance with the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Regulations. The WHP Program provides valuable information to the Authority such as: identifying the protection zone around each well, identifying potential sources of contamination for each well, identifying the land areas around our wells, and the underground geologic layers, that are within the pumping zones of influence. This information will greatly assist the Authority in dealing with emergency response in case of a hazardous spill event that could threaten the well, so that remedial measures could be put in place. Also, implementation of contingency planning could involve

revisions to local land use practices, if necessary, to protect the integrity of the groundwater supply.

A Source Water Assessment of our groundwater sources was completed in 2005 by the PA DEP. Most of the land that surrounds NPWA wells is highly developed commercial and residential areas, with a small amount of forested or agricultural/undeveloped land. The Assessment has found that our groundwater sources are potentially most susceptible to transportation corridors, residential and agricultural activities, railroad transportation, auto repair shops, machine/metal working businesses, National Priorities List (NPL) sites, industrial wastewater disposal, golf courses, a recycling center and a print shop.

In 2003, a Source Water Assessment of the North Branch Neshaminy Creek Intake, which supplies water to the Forest Park Water Filtration Plant, was completed and prepared by Spotts, Steven & McCoy, Inc. for the PA DEP. The Assessment found that the North Branch Neshaminy Creek Intake is potentially most susceptible to point sources of pollution from auto repair shops, wastewater treatment plants, boating, quarries, on-lot septic systems and gas stations. Non-point sources of potential contamination include major transportation corridors and runoff from areas of urban development, livestock farming, and industrial parks. The most serious potential sources are related to accidental release of a variety of materials along transportation corridors and high nutrients from Lake Galena. If you are interested in obtaining information concerning Source Water Assessments for the state, please contact the Authority or the state **PA DEP** at **484-250-5970** or you may obtain copies of these Assessments at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>.

## North Penn Water Authority serves over 33,000 customers in the following municipalities:

Hafield Borough  
Lansdale Borough  
Sellersville Borough  
Souderton Borough  
Franconia Township  
Hafield Township  
Lower Salford Township  
Skippack Township  
Towamencin Township

*and portions of:*  
East Rockhill Township  
Hilltown Township  
Montgomery Township  
New Britain Borough  
New Britain Township  
Salford Township  
Upper Gwynedd Township  
Upper Salford Township  
West Rockhill Township  
Worcester Township

# DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

PWSID # 1460034

## CONTAMINANTS – Tested at the Wells and Treatment Plant

Contaminant (Unit of Measure)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-products (DBPs)</b>						
Bromate (ppb)	No	1.4	1.0 – 1.6	0	10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (Leaving Treatment Plant)	No	1.15	0.94 - 1.24	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm) (Leaving the Wells)	No	0.95	0 – 2.0	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants – Most recent tests were done in 2012 - 2013</b>						
Arsenic (ppb)	No	1.0	0 – 5.0	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	No	0.2	0 - 0.4	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	No	0	0 – 0.8	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0	0 - 0.12	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	No	1.5	0.4 – 4.1	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radionuclides – Most recent tests were done in 2008 - 2011</b>						
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) <sup>1</sup>	No	4.3	1.0 – 8.5	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	No	4.7	1.5 – 10.4	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) – Most recent tests were done in 2011 - 2013</b>						
Atrazine (ppb)	No	0	0 – 0.3	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	No	0	0 – 0.6	400	400	Discharge from chemical factories
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)</b>						
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	No	0	0 – 0.6	0	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
<b>Performance Monitoring at the Treatment Plant</b>						
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>2</sup>	No	0.03	0.02 - 0.05	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

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# DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS (CONTINUED)

PWSID # 1460034

## CONTAMINANTS – Tested at the Wells and Treatment Plant (continued from previous page)

Contaminant (Unit of Measure)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Unregulated Contaminants – Test results are from March 2009 – April 2010						
Metolachlor ESA (ppb)	N/A	0	0 - 1.1	N/A	N/A	Degradation product of metolachlor which is a broad spectrum herbicide used for general weed control in non-crop areas; widely used on crops such as corn, cotton, peanuts, grass for seed production, nurseries, hedgerows/fencerows, and landscape plantings
N-Nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) (ppb)	N/A	0	0 – 0.0086	N/A	N/A	Nitrosamines can form as intermediates and byproducts in chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and plastics; can form spontaneously by reaction of precursor amines with nitrate and related compounds, or by action of nitrate-reducing bacteria

<sup>1</sup>The results for Alpha Emitters in this table represent data from wells that were in service in 2013. The one well that had higher results as reported in 2011 was shut down permanently in 2011 and has not been used since.

<sup>2</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. 100% of all samples were <0.1 NTU. As a member of the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water, our goal is to achieve <0.1 NTU. We accomplished this in 2013.

## DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS – Tested Throughout the Distribution System

Contaminant (Unit of Measure)	Violation Yes/No	Average Level Detected	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (ppm)	No	0.68	0.53 - 0.83	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	No	6.7	2.0 – 14.2	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	No	23.0	6.7 – 41.1	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## BACTERIA IN TAP WATER – Tested Throughout the Distribution System

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Highest % of Positive Samples	Monthly Range of Positive Samples	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0.93	0 – 0.93	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	Naturally present in the environment

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# DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS (CONTINUED)

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## LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at Customers' Taps

Contaminant (Unit of Measure)	Violation Yes/No	90th Percentile Result	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper (ppm)	No	0.590	1.3	1.3	0 out of 33	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	No	3.9	15	0	0 out of 33	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

**In the above tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following 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 contamination.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **N/A:** Not Applicable
- **NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity in water)
- **ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ )
- **ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg}/\text{L}$ )