



# WATER QUALITY REPORT 2014

**BUCKS COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY - New Hope System - PWSID #1090130  
(New Hope Borough/Riverwoods/New Hope Manor/Waterworks)**

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

BCWSA is committed to provide residents with a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. We have our water tested using certified labs that use advanced procedures. BCWSA's water meets State and Federal standards for both appearance and safety. This annual Consumer Confidence Report, required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, and other things you should know about drinking water. We are proud to report that the water provided by BCWSA meets or exceeds established water-quality standards.

Our utility has joined the Partnership for Safe Water, a new national initiative to help achieve operational excellence in water treatment. The partnership was developed through cooperation among U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), States and water supply associates to provide better protection for consumers from microbial contaminants that can cause intestinal illness.

Call us for information or questions about BCWSA and our water quality at 215-343-2538. Or consult our Web site at [www.bcwsa.net](http://www.bcwsa.net); or see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/) or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us).

## **WATER SOURCE:**

BCWSA's New Hope system is supplied water by surface water from the Delaware River at Waterworks, groundwater pumped from two (2) wells located near Village II in New Hope, groundwater pumped from one (1) well located at the rear of the New Hope Manor and groundwater pumped from two (2) wells located off Route 202 in New Hope.

## **MONITORING YOUR WATER:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. 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 is from prior years. The sample collection dates have been listed in parentheses on the sampling result tables.

## **DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:**

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

**Chlorate** . a byproduct of chlorine resulting from the use of liquid chlorine bleach. Regulations are not yet planned.

**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 not known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Nephelometric turbidity units (Ntu)** - turbidity is measured with an instrument called a nephelometer. Measurements are given in nephelometric turbidity units.

**Picocuries per liter (Pci/l)** - a measure of radioactivity

**Parts per billion (Ppb)** - one part per billion is equivalent to one green apple in a barrel with 999,999,999 red apples.

**Parts per million (Ppm)** - one part per million is equivalent to one green apples in a barrel with 999,999 red apples

**Total Coliform** - coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

**Total Haloacetic Acids (THAAs)** - a group of chemicals called disinfection byproducts, which form during chlorination. Similar but unregulated by products include: haloacetonitriles, halo ketones, chloropicrin, chloral hydrate and total organic halides.

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC)** - a measure of carbon content of organic matter. The measure provides an indication of how much organic material in the water could potentially react with chlorine to form THAAs and TTHMs.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)** - a group of chemicals called disinfection by products, which form during chlorination. TTHMs form when natural organic matter in the rivers, e.g., leaves and algae, decompose and combine chemically with the chlorine added for disinfection. Levels of TTHMs vary seasonally.

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

**Microbiological Contaminants:**

| Contaminants                       | MCL | MCLG | Highest # or % of Positive Samples | Violation Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination      |
|------------------------------------|-----|------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform Bacterial           | 0   | 0    | 0                                  | No            | Naturally present in the environment |
| Fecal Coliform & E. coli Bacterial | 0   | 0    | 0                                  | No            | Human and animal fecal waste         |

| Contaminants | MCL | MCLG | Highest Level Detected | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination |
|--------------|-----|------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Turbidity    | 1.0 | 1.0  | .024                   | 7/25/14     | No            | Soil Runoff                     |

**Inorganic Contaminants:**

| Contaminants  | MCL | MCLG | Highest Level Detected | Range | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination   |
|---------------|-----|------|------------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|---|
| Arsenic (ppb) | 10  | 0    | 3                      |       | 1/24/14     | No            | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 10  | 10   | 2                      | 1 - 2 | 1/24/14     | No            | Runoff from fertilizer useq leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits |
| Barium (ppm)  | 2   | 2    | 0.5                    |       | 1/24/14     | No            | Erosion of natural deposits   |

| Contaminant | Action Level (AL) | MCLG | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value | # of Sites Above AL of Total Sites | Sample Date | Violation of TT – Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination |
|-------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lead        | 15                | 0    | ND                                | 0 of 10                            | 6/1/13*     | No                    | Corrosion of household plumbing |
| Copper      | 1.3               | 1.3  | 0.306                             | 0 of 10                            | 6/1/13*     | No                    | Corrosion of household plumbing |

\*next scheduled testing 2016

**Radioactive Contaminants:**

| Contaminant        | MCL | MCLG | Highest Level Detected | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination        |
|--------------------|-----|------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Gross Beta (pCi/l) | 50  | 50   | 0                      | 9/10/12     | No            | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |

**Radionuclide Contaminants**

| Contaminant               | Violation | Average Detected   | Range of Detection              | Unit of Measure | Test Date                    | MCL | MCLG | Major Sources in Drinking Water |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----|------|---------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha               | N         | EP 101 . 0.23<br>EP 102 . 5.94<br>EP 103 . 1.93                    | 0 . 0.53<br>0.54<br>1.6 . 2.52  | pCi/L           | 7/14/10<br>1/23/13<br>8/4/10 | 30  | 0    | Erosion of natural deposits     |
| Combined Radium 226 & 228 | N         | EP 101 . 0.23-0.93<br>EP 102 . 0.05 . 0.84<br>EP 103 . 0.22 . 1.09 | 0 . 1.49<br>0.6 . 0<br>2.071.17 | pCi/L           | 7/14/10<br>6/25/10<br>8/4/10 | 5   | 0    | Erosion of natural deposit      |
| Uranium                   | N         | EP 101 - .37<br>EP 102 . 4.19                                      | -<br>-                          | pCi/L           | 1/23/13<br>1/23/13           | 20  | 0    | Erosion of natural deposits     |

**Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products:**

| Contaminant                        | MCL | Range   | Average Level Detected | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Typical Source of Contamination           |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethane) (ppb) | 80  | 10 - 37 | 24                     | 8/20/14     | No            | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids (ppb)             | 60  | 4 - 11  | 7                      | 8/20/14     | No            | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

**Distribution Disinfectant Residuals**

| Analyte         | Month of Highest Avg. Result | Highest Avg. Result | MRDL | Lowest Avg. Result | Violation |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|
| Chlorine (MG/L) | March                        | 1.183               | 4.0  | 0.527              | No        |

**Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

| Analyte         | Location ID | Highest Value Reported | Lowest Value Reported | Date of Lowest Value | Violation | Min. Residual Level Required |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Chlorine (MG/L) | 101         | 1.35                   | 0.76                  | 2/13/14              | No        | 0.2                          |
| Chlorine (MG/L) | 102         | 0.94                   | 0.41                  | 11/24/14             | No        | 0.4                          |
| Chlorine (MG/L) | 103         | 1.18                   | 0.47                  | 6/9/14               | No        | 0.4                          |

## **REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION:**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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). 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 materials, and can pick-up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm run off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming,
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, storm water runoff and residential uses.
- (D) 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.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- (F) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.
- (G) While your drinking water meets the EPA's standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contamination 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 the health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines listing ways to lessen the risk by infection *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

It is BCWSA's mission to provide quality customer service in an environmentally safe manner at an affordable rate. BCWSA has a 24-hour 7-day-a-week emergency response system to address after-hour customer emergencies. The number is 215-343-3946. SCADA Operations personnel will assist you instantly. BCWSA also issues a bi-annual newsletter to our customers and customer service areas. These newsletters are designed to keep our customers updated on the improvements and share information about our company. An interactive Web site ([www.bcwsa.net](http://www.bcwsa.net)), is available to our customers and is updated regularly to initiate a friendlier, customer service-oriented means of communication for the new millennium. Please take the time to visit the Web site. BCWSA is also a member of the Upper Bucks, Central Bucks and Lower Bucks Chambers of Commerce.

## **WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES FOR RESIDENCES & DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS:**

### **Bathrooms:**

- Never use your toilet as a waste basket
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.

- Turn off the water flow while soaping or shampooing
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full
- Bathe small children together
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it - such as watering a plant or a garden.

**Kitchen and Laundry:**

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods, thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Use a dishpan for washing and rinsing dishes.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.