

Ambler Borough Water Department  
122 East Butler Avenue  
Ambler, PA 19002

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**2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Ambler Borough Water Department, PWSID 1460020**

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.**

**Water System Information**

We are pleased to present to you our 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual water quality report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water we deliver to you everyday. The Ambler Borough Water Department is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply. This report details where our water comes from, what constituents it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the Ambler Borough Water Department at (215) 646-1000. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If you are interested in learning more about the Ambler Borough water system, you are welcome to attend Ambler Borough's regularly scheduled public meetings held the first and third Monday (May – August) and first and third Tuesday (September – April) at Borough Hall starting at 7:00 pm. We take great pride in supplying good quality drinking water to our customers at a reasonable price.

## **Water Quality Monitoring**

The Ambler Borough Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. The Detected Contaminants table lists only the drinking water contaminants we detected that are applicable for the 2008 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents.

Unless otherwise noted, the table shows monitoring results for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. The state requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## **Water Quality Table Definitions**

**The following definitions will help you understand the key terms and abbreviations contained in the Detected Contaminants table.**

*Action Level (AL)* – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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.

*Not Applicable (N/A)* – Does not apply.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* – Measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*Non-Detects (ND)* – Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L)* – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000. 1 ppm = 1,000 ppb.

*Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per Liter (µg/L)* – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000. 1,000 ppb = 1 ppm.

*Pico Curies Per Liter (pCi/L)* – A measure of radioactivity.

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

## **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring**

To ensure the highest level of water quality for our customers, we have performed monitoring of unregulated contaminants as required by EPA. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in the drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

## Detected Contaminants

<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive monthly sample	0 positive monthly samples	ND	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Barium (ppm) <sup>(1)</sup>	2.00	2.00	0.31	0.076 – 0.31	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb) <sup>(1)</sup>	100.	100.	4.80	ND – 4.80	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm) <sup>(1)</sup>	4.00	4.00	0.16	ND – 0.16	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	3.26	ND – 3.26	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead and Copper</b>	<b>Action Limit</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value</b>	<b>Number of Sites above the AL</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Copper (ppm)	1.30	1.30	0.46	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	15.0	0.00	5.37	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
1-1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7.00	7.00	1.00	ND – 1.00	NO	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Toluene (ppm)	1.00	1.00	0.0007	ND- 0.0007	NO	Discharge from petroleum factories.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15.0	0.00	3.06	ND – 3.06	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts</b>	<b>MCL or MRDL</b>	<b>MCLG or MRDLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	4.00	4.00	0.55 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.41– 0.55 <sup>(3)</sup>	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80.0	N/A	5.87 <sup>(4)</sup>	ND – 9.6	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60.0	N/A	1.60 <sup>(4)</sup>	ND – 4.60	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Total Organic Carbon	TT	TT	0.72	ND – 0.72 <sup>(1)</sup>	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Result</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Nickel (ppm) <sup>(1)</sup>	N/A	N/A	0.004	ND – 0.004	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

(1) Samples collected in 2004, except for Well 11 (2005) and Well 4 (2006).

(2) Data from samples collected in 2005.

(3) Monthly average values.

(4) Running annual average values.

## **Sources of Water**

We supply water to you from several sources, including nine deep wells and one quarry (spring) well. These sources supplied an average of 1.67 million gallons of water per day in 2008. All sources are considered groundwater sources, except the spring well which is classified as a surface water source. The spring well was not used in 2008. All sources are located within the service area of the Ambler Borough Water Department, which includes Ambler Borough and portions of the Townships of Lower Gwynedd, Upper Dublin, Whitmarsh and Whitpain. The system is currently divided into three service areas, and is served by the supply sources, storage facilities and booster pumping stations.

## **Source Water Assessment Statement**

The sources of water for the Ambler Borough water system include nine groundwater supply wells located in the Ambler area, and a surface water source (the Spring Well) located in Whitmarsh Township. The Spring Well is at moderate risk for some upstream contaminants, but was not in use as a water source in 2008. When used in past years, water withdrawn from that source was adequately treated to ensure the quality of customers' tap water. All source water is treated, and meets state and federal requirements for quality and safety, before being distributed to the public. For information about the Source Water Assessment completed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, please contact the Ambler Borough Water Department at (215) 646-1000.

## **Potential Contaminants**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. The presence of 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 (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/OGWDW](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW).

The sources of drinking water (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 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, stormwater runoff and residential users.
- 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.

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.

## **Vulnerability**

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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/OGWDW](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW).

## **Additional Information**

Water samples from the Spring Well were tested for total organic carbon periodically throughout 2008. Results were less than the detection limit.

We test the hardness of our groundwater supplies on an annual basis. Hardness levels ranged from 8.2 grains per gallon (gpg) to 20.4 gpg in 2008.

We do not add fluoride to our water supply.