

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Calendar Year 2017

Public Water System ID #4550022

### SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH

42 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue – PO Box 273

Shamokin Dam, Pa 17876



---

**March, 2018**

**Dear Water Customer;**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that all public water systems inform their customers annually about the quality of the drinking water supplied to them, and provide a description of the public water system.

**This report contains important information about your drinking water. Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

The following report is to satisfy this EPA mandate as well as to inform you about the Borough's public water system. Much of the information is similar to previous years' reports.

### Owner Statement

The Shamokin Dam water treatment plant and distribution system are owned and operated by the Shamokin Dam Borough. The Borough Council is responsible to provide safe drinking water, on a continuous basis, to their customers. The Borough employs two certified water treatment operators and one water distribution specialist, who report to the Borough Manager, to ensure the required water quality standards are met. Council regularly scheduled meetings are on the first Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM to review and discuss any water system related items that may need to be addressed. Our meeting nights are available at the Borough office or on our website at [www.shamokindam.net](http://www.shamokindam.net). Additional Borough contact information is listed at the end of this report.

### Safe Water Statement

I am pleased to report that in **2017** your drinking water met all EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) regulations, and health standards. The Shamokin Dam Borough closely monitors its water supply by taking hundreds of required water tests per year. I am proud to report that our public water system had **NO** water quality violations during 2017. Below is a statement and explanation concerning two monitoring issues that occurred in 2015. PA DEP classifies the reporting issue as a Tier 3 violation and must be addressed through this public notice to the customers served by our system.

### 2015 TTHM & HAA5 Monitoring Issues

**What happened?** *Our water system violated two drinking water testing standards in 2015. Even though this was not an emergency and there was no danger consuming the water, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the 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.*

*1. In the first quarter of 2015, we did not sample for total trihalomethane (TTHM) or 5 haloacetic acids (HAA5) in the correct seven-day time period; the sample was taken, and accepted, one day late, which is a violation.*

*2. In the third quarter of 2015 the total trihalomethane (TTHM) or 5 haloacetic acids (HAA5) sampling was properly taken and in the correct time period, however the laboratory that does the testing had an issue on their behalf and they requested that we submit another set of samples, which we did. The department is indicating that it is a violation on our behalf, because we did not have backup samples of the same water from the same date, which is not required by rule, to provide to the testing laboratory. The second set of samples was taken outside of the allowable time period.*

**What should I do?** There is nothing you, as a customer, need to do.

The table below lists the contaminant, according to DEP, that we did not properly test in 2015. How often we are supposed to sample for TTHM, HAA5, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken are all listed.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples required	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM / HAA5	Quarterly	2	0	05/10/2015 +/- 3 days	05/14/2015
*TTHM / HAA5	Quarterly	2	0	09/10/2015 +/- 3 days	09/16/2015

*\*Note: These samples were properly collected within the scheduled time period. Due to an issue at the lab we were required to resample, thus missing the proper sampling dates.*

**What was done?** We worked with DEP to rectify the issue.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on these issues, please contact Ed Hovenstine at [\(570\) 743-7565](tel:5707437565).

## **Source Water Information**

The Boroughs' water source is the Susquehanna River (DEP Source ID 001) in Snyder County, which is classified as a 'surface type' water supply. Raw (untreated) river water flows by gravity from our intake, located in the Susquehanna River just below the Veteran's Memorial Bridge, to our treatment plant. Surface type waters, like any source water, can be susceptible to contamination. If contamination occurs, public notification may be necessary depending on the severity and the type of contaminate(s). PA DEP closely monitors daily river conditions, and promptly reports any problems which may occur in the river.

## **Source Water Assessment Statement**

A Source Water Protection Assessment of the Susquehanna River, in our watershed area, was completed in 2017 by DEP in conjunction with Spotts, Stevens and McCoy – Engineers and Environmental Consultants. A copy of the Source Water Protection Plan is on file in our office. Any specific questions that you as a consumer may have concerning river conditions can be directed to our regional PA DEP office by calling (570) 327-3636.

## **Contaminants In Your Drinking 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 the water poses a health risk. The EPA has established drinking water MCL's (maximum contaminant level) for a number of contaminants. MCL's are the maximum level of a contaminant that can be present in the water and be considered safe. If an MCL is exceeded the public water system must notify the public of the contaminant that is present in the water, and the probable source of the contaminant.

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 and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, which include salts and metals, are a result of naturally occurring conditions such as urban runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. Pesticides and herbicides come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production; they can also come from fueling stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive type contaminants, which can be naturally occurring, or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities, may also be present in drinking water. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Hotline @ (800-426-4791).

## **Information about Lead in Drinking Water**

If present, elevated levels of lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The Borough is required by DEP to test for lead (& copper) every three (3) years, the latest being in 2016. The testing is done at 10 locations within the system and the results were well below the allowable limits or in most cases none was detected. Lead in individual residences drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and interior home plumbing. Shamokin Dam Borough is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to you as a customer, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components within individual homes, which may contain lead. To minimize the potential of lead exposure in your home you can flush any one of your fixtures for a minimum of 30 seconds before using the water for drinking or cooking, especially if the water has been sitting within your home plumbing system for several hours or days. If for any reason you are concerned about lead in your water, you may choose to have your water independently

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>.

## **Contaminant Precautions**

It should be noted that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Water that is not properly filtered and treated could cause serious illness in immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS, those with immune system disorders, some elderly. Infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should consult with their health care providers regarding special precautions that maybe appropriate given their condition. EPA/ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other Microbial contaminants are available again from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Treating Our Water**

Raw (untreated) river water flows by gravity from our intake, located in the Susquehanna River just below the Veteran's Memorial Bridge, to our raw water pumping station located at the north end of the Fabri-Dam Park. The untreated river water is then pumped from the raw water pumping station to our water treatment plant located next to Fiss Run, on the west side of Helen Street.

The treatment plant purification process consists of oxidation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

As the raw river water passes through the treatment plant combinations of carbon, potassium permanganate, aluminum sulfate, polyaluminium chloride, and hydrated lime are added to the untreated river water prior to the flocculation chamber.

Carbon improves the taste and odor of the water and acts as a coagulant aid. Potassium permanganate oxidizes out the soluble iron and manganese present in the river water. Aluminum sulfate, polyaluminium chloride, and lime form a coagulant (a sticky particle) that the dirt in the water attaches to and settles out in the flocculation/sedimentation chamber. Once flocculation and sedimentation has occurred, the clear water is decanted off the top of the sedimentation basin (up-flow Clarifier), chlorinated and filtered through a mixed media filter. After filtration, a small dose of fluoride is then added, we also add Shan-No-Corr (a zinc metaphosphate used for corrosion control which aids in controlling lead and copper levels in the distribution system) at this point to the filtered water. Finally, the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite prior to pumping the now potable water approximately 1.5 miles, and an elevation change of 330 feet, to a four (4)-compartment 1,000,000-gallon concrete enclosed reservoir. The reservoir is located above the K-Mart site on the north side of Sunbury Road.

## **Average Daily Water Usage**

The Borough currently consumes, through metering and water processing operations, approximately 143,500 gallons of potable water per day. Under normal river conditions the treatment plant can process 700,000 gallons per day (per our water allocation permit).

## **Conclusion**

The Shamokin Dam Borough strives to provide the maximum level of quality of water to our customers at an affordable price. We ask that anyone observing non-authorized use of water, such as fire hydrants being operated by unauthorized personnel, or if you notice water running down the street where it normally doesn't run, which could indicate a break in a water main or service line, immediately contact the Borough office or Snyder County Emergency.

Please take a moment to review the attached **2017** testing results and definitions for our system.

If you have any questions regarding this report or would like to tour the Borough water treatment facilities, please contact me at the Borough Office (**570-743-7565**), stop by the Borough office, or you can attend one of our monthly Borough Council meetings, which are held the first Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Borough Council Chambers.

Sincerely,

*Edward J. Hovenstine*

**Edward J. Hovenstine**  
**Borough Manager**