

Accettulla, Mark <maccettull@pa.gov>

Good afternoon all,

I am pleased to announce that today I finally received results back from our lab for the water samples I collected on 6/7/22 in response to concerns about bubbly/soapy water. The results are attached, along with a listing of the regulated contaminants in drinking water and their respective "maximum contaminant levels" or MCLs.

The parameters tested under the methylene blue active substances (MBAS) suite, listed in the analysis reports as "automated MBAS", were completely non-detected in both sample sets (I tested water at a complainant's residence and at the water treatment plant). The MBAS suite tests for anionic surfactants in water (soaps, detergents, foaming agents, etc.). The results for all other parameters included in the tests are within the maximum contaminant levels in drinking water.

Please note that the units are not the same for all the parameters in the analysis report. mg/L stands for milligrams per liter, which is sometimes called "parts per million." ug/L stands for micrograms per liter, which is sometimes called "parts per billion."

To provide some context, 1 mg/L is roughly equivalent to 1 drop of water in a 10 gallon aquarium, 1 inch in 16 miles, or 1 kernel of corn out of 1,250 ears of corn. 1 ug/L is roughly equivalent to 1 drop of water in a 10,000 gallon swimming pool, or 1 sheet of a roll of toilet paper stretched from London to New York.

As described in my previous email containing copies of the Borough's test results (also attached for reference), there have been no MCL exceedances or contaminants detected in the Borough's required sampling that were causes for concern. Between the Borough's sample results and these sample results, the Department can confirm that the Borough's water meets drinking water standards. My inspection on 6/7/22 also confirmed that the water treatment plant is being operated in accordance with the Borough's permits and our regulations.

The bubbles appearing in the water are likely being caused by either degassing (gasses like oxygen and carbon dioxide normally dissolved in the water coming out of solution), a natural reaction between the permitted treatment chemicals and the permitted water sources that are high in alkalinity and hardness, or a combination of both. Based on these sample results, the bubbles are not being caused by any soaps, surfactants, or materials that should not be present in drinking water.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you,