



## 2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

**PWSID #: 5320042 NAME: Indiana County Municipal Services Authority – Pine Township**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

### **WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Martin Maschak, Executive Director or Tricia Lefko, Compliance Superintendent at 724-349-6640, ext. 102 or ext. 107. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, ICMSA office, 602 Kolter Drive, Indiana, PA 15701.

### **SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name-Type-Location)

The Heilwood Mine Pool is the main source of water for the Pine Township Water System. It had a common name of "Stush's Spring" when it was brought in as a new water source a number of years ago. The source has a daily flow of 1.2 million gallons per day, pumping capacity is 144,000 gallons per day (GPD) and average use on the system for 2015 was 80,000 GPD. The Heilwood Mine Pool is a ground water source with a discharge south of the Village of Heilwood. It enters a wet well and is pumped back to the Heilwood Water Treatment Plant before it is pumped again to the distribution system.

A Source Water Assessment of most public water source(s) is completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment typically list the types of contamination for which the source water might be exposed to. An Assessment has not been published for the Heilwood Mine Pool. As a groundwater source, the Heilwood Mine Pool has a moderate risk of contamination from gas well drilling and coal mining activities. Monitoring these activities is an important part of source water protection. ICMSA will be working with the PA Rural Water Association and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection to develop a Well Head Protection program for the Heilwood Mine Pool.

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/CDC 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).

**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 to December 31, 2023. 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 in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

**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 contaminants.

*Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)* - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

*Level 1 Assessment* – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

*Level 2 Assessment* – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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

*Mrem/year* = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

*ppm* = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

*pCi/L* = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppb* = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

| <b>Chemical Contaminants</b> |                  |      |                |                     |       |             |               |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Contaminant                  | MCL in CCR Units | MCLG | Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination           |
| Chlorine                     | 4                | 4    | 1.55           | 1.41 – 1.55         | ppm   | March 2023  | N             | Additive used to control microbes. |
| Barium                       | 2                | 2    | 0.0293         | Annual sample       | ppm   | 4/20/2021   | N             | Discharge from drilling waste.     |

\*There were no detections of Volatile Organic Compounds, Synthetic Organic Compounds or TTHM/HAA5 in 2023.

| <b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b> |                               |                       |                     |       |             |               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Contaminant                              | Minimum Disinfectant Residual | Lowest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination                 |
| Chlorine                                 | 0.8                           | 0.91                  | 0.91 – 2.33         | ppm   | 01/08/2023  | N             | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| <b>Lead and Copper</b> |                   |      |                                   |       |                                    |               |                                  |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Contaminant            | Action Level (AL) | MCLG | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value | Units | # of Sites Above AL of Total Sites | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination         |
| Lead                   | 15                | 0    | 0.00139                           | ppb   | 0                                  | N             | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper                 | 1.3               | 1.3  | 0.085                             | ppm   | 0                                  | N             | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

Note: Lead and Copper data is from 2022.

## **DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

ICMSA is pleased to report that all water quality standards for the Pine Township system as per the Safe Drinking Water Act have been met for 2023. If you are interested in more information, you may find a complete listing of potential contaminants and health effects on the PA DEP site, under the E library search for Consumer Confidence Report or by calling the EPA's hotline (800-426-4791).

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### **OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

A monitoring violation occurred during 2023. The laboratory encountered an equipment issue and was unable to run the annual HAA5 sample within hold time. Consequently, the HAA5 sample had to be resampled and was out of the + or - 3-day window required by the DEP. A tier 3 notice is attached to the CCR.

### **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 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 run-off, 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 DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and 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 Environmental Protection Agency's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).

**Information about Lead**

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. Indiana County Municipal Services Authority – Pine Township 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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions, regarding this report of your drinking water, please do not hesitate to call during business hours (8am-4pm) 724-349-6640. Our phone is a 24/7 number and can be used to report any water emergency after 4pm. To keep our customers updated and informed, we have developed a new website @ [www.icomsa.org](http://www.icomsa.org) please visit to learn more.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
FAILURE TO MONITOR**

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE  
ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

**Monitoring Requirements Not Met for ICMSA Pine Township**

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*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. During 2023 we failed to monitor for the following contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, the required sampling frequency, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which corrective action samples were (or will be) taken.

| Contaminant | Required sampling frequency | Number of samples taken | When all samples should have been taken | When samples were or will be taken |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| HAA5        | Annual                      | 1                       | + or - 3 days from May 19, 2023         | May 20, 2023                       |
|             |                             |                         |   |                                    |
|             |                             |                         |   |                                    |

**What happened? What was done? When will it be resolved?**

The laboratory encountered an equipment issue and was unable to run the HAA5 sample within hold time. Consequently, the HAA5 had to be resampled however it was out of the + or - 3 day window from May 19, 2023 that the DEP requires for sampling. The HAA5 was resampled as soon as the lab informed ICMSA of the issue, analyzed and reported

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact Tricia Lefko at 724-349-6640.

Certified by:

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 03/21/2024

Print Name and Title: Tricia Lefko, Compliance Superintendent

As a representative of the Public Water system indicated above, I certify that public notification addressing the above violation was distributed to all customers in accordance with the delivery requirements outlined in Chapter 25 PA Code 109 Subchapter D of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP's) regulations. The following methods of distribution were used: \_\_\_\_\_