

The Authority

NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

2014

PWSID # 1090089

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report/ Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water.

Russian:

Данный рапорт содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Переведите его или проконсультируйтесь с тем, кто его понимает.

Spanish:

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 **Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director at 215-357-8515**. 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 normally held the first Wednesday evening each month at 7:30 pm at the Authority offices at 111 Township Road, Richboro, PA. Prior to attending, please call 215-357-8515 to insure that the meeting has not been postponed.



Source(s) of Water

The Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) serves a population of approximately 39,726. NBCMA operates 15 groundwater wells. All wells are located in Northampton Township. NBCMA also has interconnections with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. During the year, NBCMA switched from purchasing water from BCW&SA's Baxter Treatment Plant (January 1 thru June 30) to Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (July 1 thru December 31). In addition, NBCMA has a connection with the Warminster Municipal Authority from which supplemental water may be purchased. Approximately 79% of our water is purchased from the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. (No water was purchased from Warminster Municipal Authority during 2014).

A *Source Water Assessment* of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) is/are potentially most susceptible to nitrates, volatile organics (VOC's), and synthetic organic compounds (SOC's). Overall, our source(s) has/have high risk of significant contamination. A summary report of the Assessment is available on the **Source Water Assessment & Protection web page** at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm>.

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PA DEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the **PA DEP Southeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit** at (484) 250-5900.

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, 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 in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.



DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

Important Drinking Water Definitions

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

Units of Measurement

Term	Definition
Mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter



DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:

Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60	NA	35.26	4.2-42.2	ppb	2014	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.825	0.80-0.86	ppm	2014	N	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	80	NA	47.7	14.4-54.6	ppb	2014	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	0.32	0.02-0.32	ppm	2012	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride**	2*	2	0.65	0-0.65	ppm	2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	10	10	3.72	0-3.72	ppm	2014	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10	0	4.2	0.56-4.2	ppb	2012	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Antimony	6	6	0.1	0-0.1	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Chromium	100	100	3.8	0-3.8	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50	50	4	1.5-4	ppb	2012	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.
 ** As of July 1, 2014, Fluoride is no longer added to NBCMA's water.

Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Tetra-chloroethylene	5	0	1.1	0-1.1	ppb	2014	N	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners

Radioactive Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Uranium	30	0	0	0	ug/L	2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228)	5	0	1.62	0 - 1.62	pCi/l	2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters	15	0	9.07	0 - 9.07	pCi/l	2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine	0.4	0.4	0.4-3.3	ppm	2014	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead	15	0	1.7	ppb	2	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.283	ppm	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Microbiological Contaminants					
Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest # or % of Positive Samples	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	For systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month: • 5% of monthly samples are positive	0	2.3	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria or E. coli	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste.

Other Violations:

NBCMA had no reported health violations in 2014.

BCW&SA Water Quality Reports:

To review a copy of BCW&SA Baxter Treatment Plant and Forest Park Treatment Plant Water Quality Reports, please go to: nbcmatoday.org.

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. The Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority 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>.



Minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

The Authority | Newsletter

NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 | 2015

In this issue:



- Employing Technology to Increase Efficiency
Pg. 7



- Are Your Downspouts or Sump Pumps Connected to the Sanitary Sewer System?
Pg. 8-9



- Grease Disposal Tips to Help the Township's Environment
Pg. 10

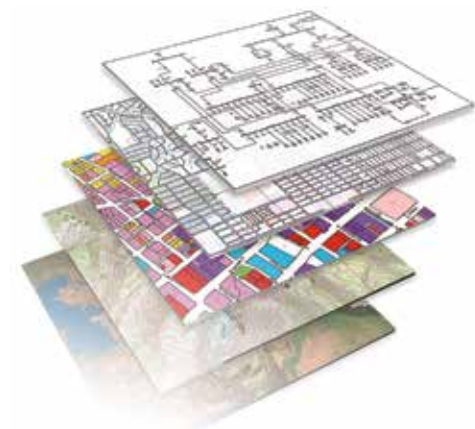


- Same Bill, New Look!
Pg. 11

Employing Technology to Increase Efficiency

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) provides water and wastewater services to nearly 40,000 residents in Northampton Township. NBCMA utilizes thousands of paper documents to find information for sewer and water infrastructure within the Township.

In an effort to synchronize more than 6,000 project plans, update existing project documentation and track all past and future utility information. NBCMA is creating an internet based Geographic Information System (GIS) map of approximately 4,100 sanitary sewer manholes and associated mains, 2,000 water valves, and 1,000 fire hydrants and associated mains in the township.



Our team of authority staff and professionals worked to collect, review and upload thousands of data points to a secure internet based GIS map that is compatible with Google Earth® and can be accessed on multiple platforms at once, like tablets or mobile phones.

The completed GIS will have the capability to display and link all of the Authority's water and sewer mains overlaid on a Google Earth® map. By clicking on a manhole or valve, the system will provide specific utility data such as the type of pipe or valve, rim/grade elevation, diameter of pipe, size of valve, downstream and upstream manholes, previous maintenance completed, as well as linking the users to the associated Record Plans for the Authority. This project is on-going with a scheduled completion date of November of 2015.

ARE YOUR DOWNSPOUTS OR SUMP PUMPS CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM?

Questions and Answers Regarding Sewer System Connections

Q: WHAT IS A DOWNSPOUT?

A: A downspout is a pipe that is connected to the rain gutter of your home. The pipe may be connected to your sanitary sewer service. When it rains or when the snow on your roof melts, the water travels down the gutters into the downspouts and finally into the sanitary sewer main in the street.



Q: WHY IS HAVING YOUR DOWNSPOUTS CONNECTED A PROBLEM?

A: Discharging rain water to a sanitary sewer through downspouts violates state and federal laws required by the Clean Water Act of 1977, and contributes to increased cost of stormwater that the Authority has to unnecessarily convey and treat each year. Stormwater from downspouts greatly contributes to this increased wastewater flow. Because the Authority system is not designed to handle this amount of flow, the wastewater is not treated properly and adds to the potential of discharging pollutants to the environment.

Q: HOW DO I DISCONNECT MY DOWNSPOUTS?

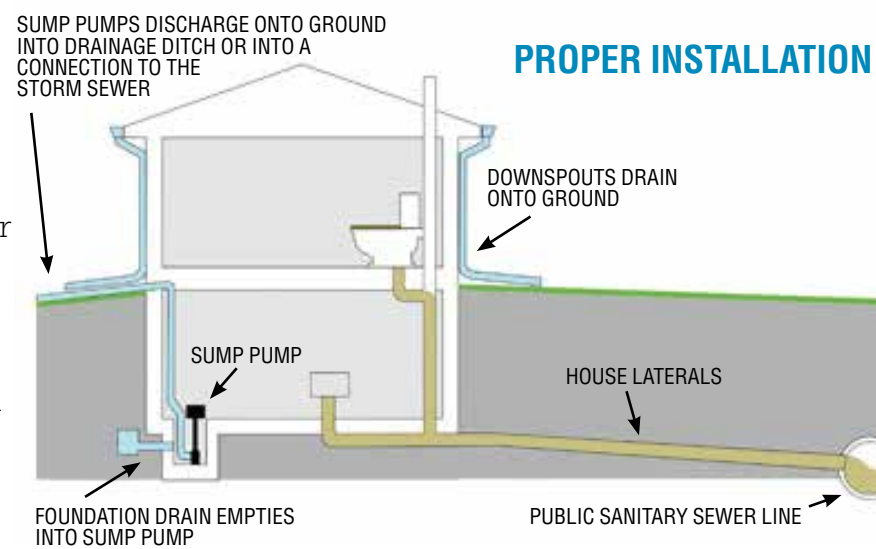
A: Disconnecting your downspouts is very easy and inexpensive. It can be done by disconnecting your rain gutter from the downspout and then connecting it to a downspout extension. A downspout extension can also provide water to landscaping that would not normally receive rain water due to overhangs. Downspout extensions can be purchased at any hardware or home and garden store.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE TO NOT DISCONNECT MY DOWNSPOUTS OR SUMP PUMPS?

A: In compliance with Northampton Township Ordinance No 492, a violation is punishable by a fine of \$1,000.00 per day.

Q: WHAT IS THE REASON FOR REGULATION?

A: Wastewater is the discharge from toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs, dishwashers and washing machines. People produce wastewater. It must be treated. Wastewater is removed through the sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewers carry it to a treatment facility.



Groundwater or storm water is water from rain or snow, which seeps into the soil. When soil becomes saturated, ground water seeps into basements. Sump pumps are commonly used to remove this water.

Sump pumps must not be connected to sanitary sewers, but rather must be connected to a storm sewer or discharged onto lawns.

Q: WHY?

A: When sump pumps or downspouts discharge into sanitary sewer, flooding often is the result. Sanitary sewers are not designed to handle the extra volume rain runoff and sump pumps add. This extra volume overloads the design capacity of the system.

Wastewater needs to be treated. Groundwater from sump pumps or downspouts does not. When the volume of wastewater is increased by the addition of groundwater from sump pumps, the Authority's and ultimately the home and business owners' treatment cost increase significantly and unnecessarily.

On March 12, 2004, Northampton Township passed Ordinance No. 492, which prohibits sump pumps from being connected to sanitary sewers. A violation is punishable by a fine of \$1000.00 per day.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY SUMP PUMP OR DOWNSPOUTS ARE CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER?

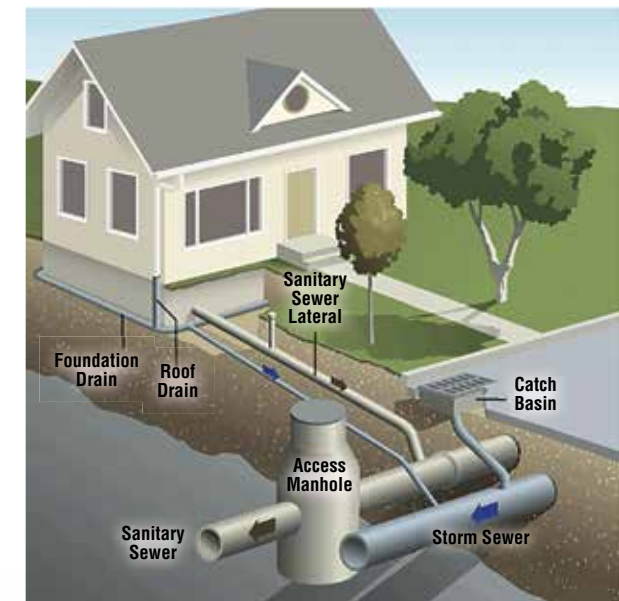
A: Reroute the pipe so that it discharges onto your lawn or into a nearby storm sewer. If you have questions, or need assistance or advice about how to bring your sump pump into compliance with the law, contact the **Municipal Authority at 215-357-8515**.

Q: IF I ASK FOR HELP, WILL I BE SUBJECT TO THE FINE?

A: No, so long as you take immediate steps to disconnect your sump pump or downspouts from the sanitary sewer. Our main mission is to eliminate those connections.

Q: ARE WE THE ONLY TOWNSHIP HAVING THIS PROBLEM?

A: No. All communities are dealing with the same issues. We are seeking your assistance in promoting environmental responsibility.



On March 12, 2004, Northampton Township passed Ordinance No. 492, which prohibits sump pumps and downspouts from being connected to sanitary sewers. A violation is punishable by a fine of \$1000.00 per day.

Grease Disposal Tips to Help the Township's Environment

Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority needs the help of all of its residents to keep our sewer system running properly. Liquefied fat, oil, or grease (FOG) that is poured down the kitchen sink drain can cause serious impacts. FOG can cling to the insides of pipes and the sewer system. Over time, it can build up and can eventually block pipes completely. If wastewater can't move freely through pipes and out into the sewer system, it can back up into your home and can cause unsanitary conditions and damages that can be expensive to repair. By following the guidelines below, you can help avoid repeated repairs and unnecessary disruptions to residences and businesses.

Properly Dispose of Cooking Oil & Grease

Cooking oil and grease are wastes that the Authority's sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the drain. Dumping grease, fats, and oil can clog sewer lines, causing sewage back-ups and flooding. Sewage back-ups can damage personal and public property.

Here's how you can help.

DO NOT dump cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl.

DO NOT use hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain, because it will cool and harden in your pipes or in the sewer down the line.

DO place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage.

DO use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes and pots.



THOMAS A. ZEUNER ELECTED TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF REGION NO.1 FOR PMAA

Chairman Edward Farling announced at the Authority's April 15, 2015 public Board meeting that Thomas A. Zeuner; Executive Director of the Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority had been elected to serve as Director of Region No.1 for the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA). Chairman Farling stated, "This is a great recognition of the leadership Mr. Zeuner has demonstrated here in Northampton from those who know the business. It clearly confirms that this Authority is consistently in front of issues facing all Authorities in Pennsylvania."



The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association represents approximately 2,600 Authorities in Pennsylvania by providing training, education, and advocacy on regulatory & legislative issues. As Director of Region No.1, Mr. Zeuner will represent Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Chester Counties.

SAME BILL, NEW LOOK!

The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority has released a newly designed bill intended to simplify our customer's experience while providing greater privacy. The new format is referred to as a sealed mailer in contrast with our post card format of our prior bills. This fresh layout provides valuable information in the clearest way possible. Whether you are looking for consumption, balance due, or payment options, we trust you will find the new bill format easy to read and understand.

Important Contact Information and Office Hours

Due Date

Amount Due

Return Coupon Portion to be sent with your payment

Important Account Information

Current Meter Information

Make Checks Payable To

Account Summary showing charges, fees and penalties for current period

Customer Name and Address

Service Location	Account	Bill Date	Prev. Reading / Curr. Reading
		04/01/2015	04/03/2015

Date	Prev Rdg	Curr Rdg	Usage	Type	Amount
04/03/2015		0	0	Actual	

Previous Balance	193.34
Payments	-193.34
Adjustments	0.00
Prior Balance	0.00
Sewer	193.34
Current Charges	193.34
Payment Received by 04/30/2015	0.00
Payment Received After 04/30/2015	

Make Checks Payable to NBCMA
 Mail Payments to :
 Fox Chase Bank
 P.O. Box 615
 Richboro, PA 18954-0615
 Pay online at :
 www.nbcmatoday.org

Northampton, Bucks County
 MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
 111 TOWNSHIP ROAD
 RICHBORO, PA 18954-1550
 (215)357-8515

WATER AND SEWER BILL ENCLOSED

JOHN Q. PUBLIC
 WATER STREET
 RICHBORO, PA 18954



Northampton, Bucks County,
Municipal Authority

111 Township Road
Richboro, PA 18954
www.nbcmatoday.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HAVERTOWN, PA
PERMIT #45

2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CGR)

PWSID # 1090089

& The Authority Newsletter



The Authority

NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CGR) Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID # 1090089

&

The Authority Newsletter

This report is being mailed to you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.