# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

***Presented By***

**Ambridge Water Authority**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: 5040008

## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) customers are fortunate to enjoy an abundant supply of water that comes from an outstanding source. Service Creek Reservoir is a spring-fed, surface water-influenced upland reservoir containing 3.5 billion gallons of water, which may well be the highest-quality source water in western Pennsylvania. This lake was created by AWA in the early 1950s. It is dedicated exclusively to providing water for the residents within our service area and our bulk water customers (consecutives). Your water is piped over seven miles from the reservoir to our water treatment plant in Ambridge. The water is then treated and pumped to service Ambridge, Harmony Township, Economy, Bell Acres, Baden, parts of New Sewickley Township, and Edgeworth Municipal Authority (which also serves Leet Township and Leetsdale). This brings AWA's total population served to nearly 30,000 individuals! During 2025 our treatment facility provided an average of 3.18 million gallons per day of clean drinking water. Interconnects with neighboring West View Water Authority provide a backup supply of water in emergency situations. To learn more about our watershed, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway.

## Water Treatment Process

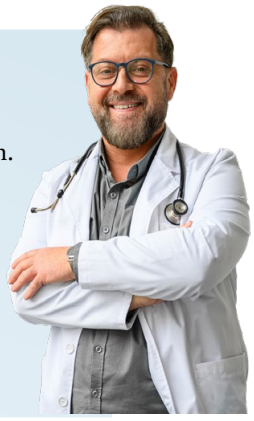
Raw water is pumped from the Service Creek Reservoir, pretreated with a disinfectant before reaching a surge tank, and then gravity fed to the water treatment plant. The water then goes into a rapid-mixing tank where a coagulant called DelPac 2020 is added, DelPac clumps together with small particles in the water to form floc. The heavier floc particles settle to the bottom of sedimentation basins for removal as wastewater. Caustic soda is added to the water to adjust the pH, and chlorine is added for predisinfection. The water is then filtered through layers of fine anthracite coal and sand; these are our filtering media.

After filtration, the clean water is collected in a well at the water plant, and chlorine is added again as a precaution to disinfect any pathogens that may still be present. Finally, a corrosion inhibitor called orthophosphate is added to the drinking water to create a barrier between the drinking water and the distribution system piping. The water is then pumped from the treatment plant via underground piping into water storage tanks and eventually to our homes and businesses.

The entire process is operated by professionally trained Pennsylvania-certified water plant operators. Water testing in the community is done on a regular basis to ensure proper disinfection is performed to protect our community.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.



## Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please contact Nate Protzman, AWA General Manager, at (724) 266-3360.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and PA 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

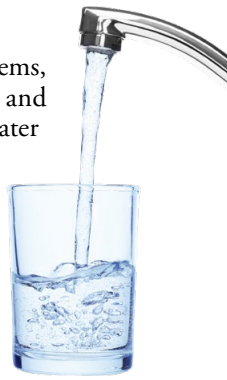
Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Lead in Home Plumbing



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 Ambridge Water Authority is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have it tested, contact the Ambridge Water Authority at (724) 266-4910. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be reviewed at the Ambridge Water Authority office at 600 11th Street. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

## Source Water Assessment

Spotts, Stevens and McCoy Inc., an environmental company under contract with the PA DEP, performed a source water assessment in accordance with the Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) in 2002. This was done in accordance with requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Land use is an important consideration in identifying potential point and nonpoint sources of contamination. Point sources are those that emanate from known discharge locations such as an industrial outfall. Nonpoint sources are the runoff that occurs naturally through rainfall and snowmelt picking up potential contaminants, such as herbicides, or farming by-products, such as manure. In addition to point and nonpoint sources, accidental spills and known or unknown sources of contamination may occur, such as a spill during delivery of home heating oil or leaking from pipelines or gas/oil wells. These contamination sources are unlikely to occur because of the relatively undeveloped nature of the watershed. Watershed criteria that result in a high risk of contamination are transportation corridors, residential development, agriculture, and pipelines. For a summary of this report or for information regarding the SWAP, access the PA DEP online at http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/defautlt.html. You may also contact the PA DEP regional office at (412) 442-4000.

In addition to the source water assessment, the AWA has designed and implemented a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) to further protect the authority and its assets. This document will be updated and improved as deemed necessary by the authority. AWA's SWPP can be found online at ambwater.org.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**REGULATED SUBSTANCES**

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barium** (ppm) | 2025 | 2 | 2 | 0.024 | NA | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Chlorine [distribution]** (ppm) | 2025 | [4] | [4] | 1.56 | 0.25–1.56 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| **Chlorine [entry point]** (ppm) | 2025 | MinRDL: SW=0.2/ GW=0.4 | NA | 0.93[1] | 0.93–1.65 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| **Cyanide** (ppb) | 2019 | 200 | 200 | 4.1 | NA | No | Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories |
| **Dissolved Organic Carbon** (ppm) | 2025 | NS | NA | 2.48 | 2.07–2.92 | No | Naturally occurring |
| **Fluoride** (ppm) | 2025 | 2 | 2 | 0.126 | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| **Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]** (ppb) | 2025 | 60 | NA | 39.3 | 21.3–50.2 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Monochloroacetic Acid** (ppb) | 2025 | NS | NA | 1.32 | ND–1.45 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Nitrate** (ppm) | 2025 | 10 | 10 | 0.268 | NA | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA]** (ppt) | 2024 | 14 | 8 | 2.5 | 2.0–2.5 | No | Used in the production of Teflon, firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives, and photographic films |
| **Specific Ultraviolet Absorbance [SUVA]** (ppm) | 2025 | NS | NA | 1.21 | 0.64–2.47 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| **Total Organic Carbon [TOC]** (percent removal) | 2025 | TT | NA | NA | 4.1–33.2 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| **Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]** (ppb) | 2025 | 80[2] | NA | 75.5 | 35.3–105 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Trichloroacetic Acid** (ppb) | 2025 | NS | NA | 24.1 | 14.6–27.3 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Turbidity**[3] (NTU) | 2025 | TT | NA | 0.28 | NA | No | Soil runoff |
| **Turbidity** (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit) | 2025 | TT = 95% of samples meet the limit | NA | 100 | NA | No | Soil runoff |
| **UV254 (cm-1)** | 2025 | NS | NA | 3.07 | 0.92–7.24 | No | Naturally occurring |

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Copper** (ppm) | 2025 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.10 | 0.002–0.20 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Lead** (ppb) | 2025 | 15 | 0 | 9.30 | ND–11.0 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bromodichloromethane** (ppb) | 2025 | 8.96 | 5.42–11.8 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Chlorodibromomethane** (ppb) | 2025 | 0.56 | ND–1.06 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Chloroform** (ppb) | 2025 | 66.2 | 29.9–92.2 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Dichloroacetic Acid** (ppb) | 2025 | 15.01 | 4.64–24.6 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

[1] Lowest level detected.
[2] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
[3] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**cm-1:** Ultraviolet absorbance (UVA) per centimeter (cm).

**GW:** Groundwater source.

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

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

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

**SW:** Surface water source.

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

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 600 11th Street.