

# Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc.

## Penn Estates Water System

PWS ID: PA2450065

### Annual Water Quality Report 2019

#### Message from Steve Lubertozi, President

Dear Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. Customers,

I am pleased to share your Annual Water Quality Report for 2019. This report is designed to inform you of the quality of water we delivered to you over the past year. As your community water utility, we fully appreciate our role in the local community. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Our team is committed to providing safe, reliable and cost effective service to our customers. All of our employees share in our commitment to act with integrity, protect the environment, and enhance the local community.

**We are proud to share this report which is based on water quality testing through December 2019. We continually strive to supply water that meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality regulations.**

Our dedicated local team of water quality experts is working in the community everyday ensuring that you, our customer, are our top priority and that we are providing the highest quality service - now and in the years to come.

Best regards,



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use disinfection, such as those provided by Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc., should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19 as they do for other pathogens. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. **You can continue to use and drink water from your tap as usual.**

EPA also encourages the public to help keep household plumbing and our nation's water infrastructure operating properly by only flushing toilet paper. **Disinfecting wipes and other items should be disposed of in the trash, not the toilet.**

For more information, visit the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html> and EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>.

#### Source of Drinking Water

Your water is supplied from seven wells that draw groundwater from three aquifers, Towamensing, Walcksville and the Trimmers Rock in Monroe County located within community boundaries in the Stroud Township. An aquifer is a geological formation that contains water.

#### Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment of the Towamensing, Walcksville and the Trimmers Rock geologic aquifer, which supplies water for Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

Summary reports of the assessment are available by writing to, Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. P.O. Box 379, Dunkirk, Maryland 20754-0379 and on the PADEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermtg/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermtg/wc/Subjects/SrceProt/SourceAssessment/default.htm).

Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water suppliers, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the PADEP Northeast Regional Office, Records Management Unit at (570) 826-2511.

The assessment found 11 individual potential pollution point activities in the area:

The highest risk of threat of potential pollution to the water system by activity quantity is Quarry, swimming pools and wastewater treatment plants.

Category	Quantity	Greatest Percentage
Agricultural	0	
Commercial	0	
Industrial	1	Quarry
Miscellaneous	9	Wastewater Treatment Plant
Residential	1	Swimming Pool

Please call customer service at 1-800-638-0262 if you have questions.

**We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.**

***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.***

## EPA Wants You To Know

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:**

- A. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- C. **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- D. **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.
- E. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **What measures are in place to ensure water is safe to drink?**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

### **Special notice from EPA for the elderly, infants, cancer patients and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems**

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. USEPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **Information Concerning Lead in Water**

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. Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Water that remains stationary within your home plumbing for extended periods of time can leach lead out of pipes joined with lead-containing solder as well as brass fixtures or galvanized pipes. Flushing fixtures has been found to be an effective means of reducing lead levels. The flushing process could take from 30 seconds to 2 minutes or longer until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature. Faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. Visit the NSF Web site at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

### **Drain Disposal Information**

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause is sewer pipes blocked by grease, which gets into the sewer from household drains. Grease sticks to the insides of pipes. Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Help solve the grease problem by keeping this material out of the sewer system in the first place:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Scrape grease into a can or trash.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps / solids for disposal.

### **Prescription Medication and Hazardous Waste**

Household products such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides, are considered to be household hazardous waste. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the wastewater treatment system and enter rivers and lakes (or leach into the ground and seep into groundwater in a septic system). Follow the directions for proper disposal procedures. **Do not flush hazardous waste or prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain.** They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Many communities offer a variety of options for conveniently and safely managing these items.

For more information, visit the EPA website at: [www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw](http://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw).

**The Safe Drinking Water Act** was passed in 1974 due to congressional concerns about organic chemical contaminants in drinking water and the inefficient manner by which states supervised and monitored drinking water supplies. Congress' aim was to assure that all citizens served by public water systems would be provided high quality water. As a result, the EPA set enforceable standards for health-related drinking water contaminants. The Act also established programs to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

**Understanding This Report** In order to help you understand this report, we want you to understand a few terms and abbreviations that are contained in it.

Action level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Action level goal (ALG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's 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.
Not applicable (N/A)	Not applicable.
Not Detected (ND)	Indicates the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)	One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)	One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)	A measure of radioactivity in the water.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Help Protect our Resources

Help put a stop to the more than **1 trillion gallons of water lost annually** nationwide due to household leaks. These easy to fix leaks waste the average family the amount of water used to fill a backyard swimming pool each year. Plumbing leaks can run up your family's water bill an extra 10 percent or more, but chasing down these water and money wasting culprits is as easy as 1—2—3. Simply check, twist, and replace your way to fewer leaks and more water savings:

- ⇒ **Check** for silent leaks in the toilet with a few drops of food coloring in the tank, and check your sprinkler system for winter damage.
- ⇒ **Twist** faucet valves; tighten pipe connections; and secure your hose to the spigot. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. They can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—equivalent to the amount water used to shower 180 times!
- ⇒ **Replace** old plumbing fixtures and irrigation controllers that are wasting water with WaterSense labeled models that are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform well.

For more information visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

**Visit us online at [www.uiwater.com/pennsylvania](http://www.uiwater.com/pennsylvania) to view the Water Quality Reports. Also visit our website for water conservation tips and other educational material.**

## Monitoring Your Water

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, maybe more than one year old.

*MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.*

## If You Have Questions Or Want To Get Involved

Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. does not hold regular public meetings. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact customer service at 1-800-638-0262.

**To access your utility account anytime, anywhere, please register for our customer portal & download MyUtilityConnect at <https://connect.myutility.us/connect/>**



## Water Quality Test Results

### Lead and Copper Contaminants - Regulated at the Consumers' Tap

Sample Period	Units	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Copper</b>						
Jan. – June 2018 Monitoring Period	ppm	0.64	3 of 40 samples	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
July – Dec. 2018 Monitoring Period	ppm	0.77	5 of 40 samples			
Jan — Jun 2019 *Represents sampling outside of compliance period	ppm	0.24-0.899	0 of 2 samples			

\*Additional individual samples were collected in 2019 with 0 of 2 samples exceeding the copper AL.

*Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.*

### Lead

Jan. – June 2018 Monitoring Period	ppb	1.76	0 of 40 samples	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
July – Dec. 2018 Monitoring Period	ppb	2.42	0 of 40 samples			
Jan — Jun 2019 *Represents partial sampling outside of compliance period	ppb	ND-37	1 of 2 samples			

\*Additional individual samples were collected in 2019 with 1 of 2 samples exceeding the lead AL at 37 ppb.

*Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.*

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water Average	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/l) (Radium-228)	2015	N	1.09	1.09	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	2019	Y*	4.8	ND - 27.5	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2018	N	0.0127	ND - 0.0421	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

\*The issue has been resolved. One sample collected for arsenic in 12/2018 showed a level above 10 ppb which did not result in a violation during 2018. After a verification sample was collected in 1/2019 which also resulted in a level above 10 ppb, customers were notified on 2/5/19 of the elevated arsenic results. Measures have been taken to lower the levels and increased monitoring has shown the levels below the MCL. Customers will be notified if the average were to exceed the MCL. Please see the following for EPA's required language: *Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system,*

### Nitrate/Nitrite Contaminants

Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2019	N	0.18	ND - 0.55	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
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## Water Quality Test Results

### Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL/ MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water Average	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	See Violation Section	1.34	0.46 - 2.09	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

### Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water Average	Range Low High	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
*Manganese (ppm)	2018-2019	Y	0.1191	ND - 0.798	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppm)	2019	N	ND	ND	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	2018	N	37	22 - 54	250	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2018	N	16	11 - 23	250	Erosion of natural deposits
**Lead (ppm)	2019	N	ND	ND	0.015	Erosion of natural deposits, leeching from wood preservatives

*\*Well 8, which is 1 of 7 wells within the water system, exceeded the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory level for Manganese in 2018. Well 8 has been taken offline and an assessment is being done to see if further treatment is needed. Although manganese is an essential nutrient at low doses, chronic exposure to high doses may pose health risks. There is little data for the consumption exposure to manganese and health effects. Manganese is considered a secondary contaminant with a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL). SMCL's are not health-based standards; rather they are set for aesthetic effects. Excess manganese could produce a brownish color in laundered goods, impair the taste of tea, coffee, and other beverages and may cause a dark brown or black stain on porcelain plumbing fixtures.*

*\*\*The lead samples was collected in raw water and was not collected as part of the Lead and Copper rule.*

### Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics - Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low High
Calcium (ppm)	2018	27.6	23.2 - 35.6
Magnesium	2017	6.29	N/A

### PFAS Testing

Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. is currently conducting statewide drinking water testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These man-made compounds are used in the manufacturing of products resistant to water, grease or stains including firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, paints, adhesives and insecticides. PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air and is likely present in the blood of humans and animals all over the world. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a health advisory level at 70 parts per trillion. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>. Notification has or will be sent to all registered customers of the testing results once completed. Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. is committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective drinking water services to all of our customers.

### Additional Violations

Please see the following violations that Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. received in 2019:

#### Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	09/05/2019	09/30/2019 - Result ND (MCL 60 ppb)	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant during the period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Sample taken 9/30/19.

#### Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	09/05/2019	10/17/2019 - Result ND (MCL 80ppb)	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant during the period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Sample taken 10/17/2019.

#### Groundwater Rule/Chlorine

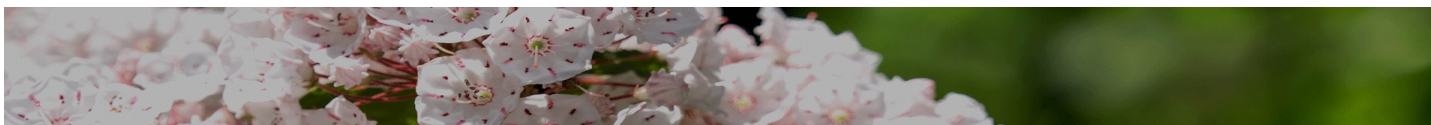
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Recordkeeping Requirements Not Met for well 6 entry point 106	02/01/2019	03/14/2019	We failed to retain data collected for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Recordkeeping Requirements Not Met for well 7 entry point 107	03/19/2019	04/04/2019	We failed to retain data collected for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Recordkeeping Requirements Not Met for well 5 entry point 105	04/09/2019	05/02/2019	We failed to retain data collected for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Recordkeeping Requirements Not Met for well 7 entry point 107	04/04/2019	05/01/2019	We failed to retain data collected for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Failure to maintain 4-log inactivation for well 2 entry point 102	06/28/2019	06/28/2019	We failed to maintain 4-log inactivation for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Failure to maintain 4-log inactivation for well 2 entry point 102	03/11/2019	3/12/2019	We failed to maintain 4-log inactivation for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Failure to maintain 4-log inactivation for well 2 entry point 102	03/22/2019	03/23/2019	We failed to maintain 4-log inactivation for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).
Failure to maintain 4-log inactivation for well 2 entry point 102	04/06/2019	04/06/2019	We failed to maintain 4-log inactivation for chlorine residuals in accordance with PA Code Chapter 109.301(1)(D).

#### Chlorine

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Failure to monitor or report for the disinfectant specified.	3/21/19	3/31/19	PA DEP received the report late. Compliance has been achieved.

#### Revised Total Coliform Rule

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Failure to properly collect or analyze RTCR routine samples.	9/23/19	10/7/19	PA DEP received the report late. Compliance has been achieved.



## 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 Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

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. Haloacetic Acid and Trihalomethane samples were required to be collected on 09/05/2019. We failed to collect them on 09/05/2019 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, how often we are supposed to sample for Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes and 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 (or will be) taken.

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Required sampling frequency</u>	<u>Number of samples taken</u>	<u>When all samples should have been taken</u>	<u>When samples were or will be taken</u>
HAA5	1/year	1	09/05/2019	09/30/2019
TTHM	1/year	1	09/05/2019	10/17/2019

#### What happened? What was done?

PA DEP requires that HAA5 and TTHM samples be taken 09/05/2019. Samples were taken late on 09/30/2019 and 10/17/2019, both results were ND.

For more information, please contact Emily Long at 1-800-638-0262 or P.O. Box 379, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

*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.*

This notice is being sent to you by Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc.

PWS ID#: 2450065

Date distributed: Direct Mail with Annual 2019 CCR