



# GLA WATER CONSULTANTS, INC.

## Water Treatment Chemicals & Equipment

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March 10, 2015

Mr. Jim Perlik  
Blackhawk School District  
500 Blackhawk Road  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Subject: Northwestern Primary School - Water Reports

Jim,

Per your email you asked about the quality of the water at the Northwestern Primary School. Since I knew you were asking for additional information, I thought I would provide you with this explanation that I thought would be helpful.

At the present time the water quality at Northwestern Primary meets all EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and PaDEP (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) guidelines for drinking water as required under the Clean Water Drinking Act. **Note:** The EPA/PaDEP has jurisdiction over all drinking water supplied to people by municipalities and small suppliers like Blackhawk School District. They do not have any jurisdiction over local home owners, though, who may have a well supplying their home.

The Northwestern Primary School receives its water supply from three (3) ground water wells. The water is collected, filtered and pre-treated for bacteria and is also re-pressurized. At present the water supplies the school, the football field and the annex. This protocol is similar to that at any other municipality. The one thing that was removed from the pre-treatment protocol was a mixed bed media filter but then post filtration before the final supply was increased. The PaDEP does not require either but for usage, they recommended it.

The EPA/PaDEP protocols call for the water supplied to the taps used in the facility to be tested quarterly for Total Coliform (bacteria). This is a measure of both fecal and E-Coli bacteria. It is our practice to test them monthly for better verification that the water is safe to drink.

The system is also checked daily for residual chlorine levels by the Blackhawk School District personnel. These levels are recorded on log sheets. GLA does a monthly double check on the residual chlorine levels and also calibrates the chemical testing meter that the Blackhawk personnel utilize. Once a quarter all of this documentation has to be filed with the PaDEP per their requirements.

Member Company



Other testing protocols as instructed by the PaDEP include:

- Annual testing of Nitrates/Nitrites and Disinfection By-Products. These are tested and again reported to the PaDEP. For the last two years the numbers have been exceptional with very low levels. (Note: The EPA/PaDEP required two tests last year of the nitrates because of some issues being experienced on the municipal side.
- The PaDEP also requires every other or third year certain tests based on their yearly inspection of the site. This year we will be testing the system for Inorganic Compounds (IOC), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Pesticides (SOC) in the second quarter of 2015. These were all last tested for 2012. All of those tests revealed levels at acceptable limits per the PaDEP. In fact results for the VOCs and SOCs showed no detectable levels (Less than the Minimum Detection Limit (MDL)).
- Some other inorganic compounds are required to be tested based on changes in the EPA protocols yearly or based on what the PaDEP has had an issue within other facilities, including large municipal water plants (such as the nitrates listed above). Arsenic was tested last year and the results again were below detection limits.
- Lead and copper levels are also tested for, generally every three years. The PaDEP requires at least 8 taps be checked. These were last tested in 2013. We included 15 because many of our taps at that time had been water fountains that are known to be sources of these issues. All the fountains yielded very acceptable results as did the other water taps.
- Program manuals for the water and various protocols need to be filed with the PaDEP. At the present time all of the required documentation has been filed with the proper authorities.
- All of this data has been filed with the PaDEP as required by law. All of the documentation including the test results are available on the PaDEP website since it is available under the Freedom of Information Act. Please note: Municipal water systems are also required to file the same documents that you do. However, they may have more reports because they supply more households/people.

As you know, because of some complaints about taste, which from our experience is normally due to low levels of iron and chlorine (chlorine is used as a disinfectant by all drinking water suppliers including Blackhawk), most of the water fountains have been replaced with post filter / RO(Reverse Osmosis) drinking water systems. These are similar to what you would buy for an under sink supply or bottled drinking water supply. These take the existing water, filter it through carbon filters, ion filters, media filters and a RO, which in turn makes ultra-pure water. The filters on these units will be changed in the next few months.

Your supply water to the students and teachers utilized for drinking is very clean and safe in these areas.

The toilets, sinks and kitchen cleaning areas are really the only areas still being supplied by the treated well water.

If someone would like more information on the specifics, I would be willing to meet or discuss it with them.

If you have any questions about this information, feel free to call me at 412-262-4827.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Farmerie".

Jay Farmerie

JJF:mcf