

PLUMSTEAD



TOWNSHIP

Board of Supervisors:
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Public Works Department
Alan Bleam, Director
5119 Stump Road
Pipersville, PA 18947-1015
PHONE - 215-766-0189
FAX - 215-766-1439

July 6, 2026

Dear Plumstead Township, Summer Hill/Summer Meadow Drinking Water Customer;

I am writing to explain the attached violation notice and why the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) monitors nitrate (NO₂) and nitrite (NO₃) levels in drinking water. We also want to outline the potential concerns associated with these compounds, and to reassure you of the measures in place to protect public health and provide safe, high quality drinking water.

The violation occurred because of a lapse in communication and the specific well that was to be tested was out of service for mechanical repairs on the date the test was required to be taken. The test is required to be performed annually and will be completed on July 10, 2026, following rehabilitation of the well mechanically. The most recent tests were completed on 7/12/2024 and the results were non-detect. The test has historically resulted in non-detect levels.

PADEP Monitors Nitrate and Nitrite which are naturally occurring forms of nitrogen that are commonly found in the environment. They can enter groundwater and surface water through natural processes such as soil decomposition, as well as human activities including agricultural fertilization, septic systems, and wastewater discharges. Because drinking water can be impacted by these sources, PADEP requires routine monitoring to ensure that concentrations remain within safe regulatory limits. PADEP's monitoring program follows federal guidelines established under the **Safe Drinking Water Act**, which set Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for nitrate (10 mg/L as nitrogen) and nitrite (1 mg/L as nitrogen).

mg/L is a testing unit of concentration that shows how much of a particular substance is dissolved in a liquid. Mg is milligram or 1/1000 of a gram. L is liter or about 1 quart of water. These limits are based on extensive scientific research designed to protect even the most sensitive populations.

The primary health concern associated with elevated nitrate or nitrite in drinking water is a condition called methemoglobinemia, often referred to as "blue baby syndrome." This condition primarily affects infants under six months old and can interfere with the blood's ability to carry oxygen. For older children and adults, the risk is significantly lower at typical environmental levels. Long-term exposure to elevated nitrate levels has also been studied for potential links to other health concerns, though current regulatory standards are considered protective of public health based on the best available science.

Assurance of Safety

The presence of nitrate or nitrite in water does not automatically mean there is a safety issue. Monitoring programs are designed to detect even small changes in water quality and act as an early warning system. If levels approach or exceed regulatory limits, immediate actions are taken, which may include additional testing, public notification, and corrective measures such as treatment adjustments or identifying and addressing the source and removal of the source from the supply.

Regular reporting and oversight ensure transparency and accountability and ensure that any potential risks are communicated promptly.

PADEP's monitoring of nitrate and nitrite is a proactive and essential part of ensuring safe drinking water. While these compounds can pose health risks at elevated levels, established safeguards, consistent testing, and strict regulatory standards provide a strong layer of protection for the community.

As of this writing, the well associated with the violation has been flushed and tested for service according to PADEP required standards and has been placed back in service. The required testing is scheduled for 7/10/2026.

If you have questions or would like more information about your local water quality, please contact my office directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Bleam", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Bleam
Director of Public Works

215.766.0189

cc: File

Stacey Mulholland, Township Manager



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 Plumstead Township Summer Hill Water System

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 2025 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
Nitrate/ Nitrite	Annually	0	2025	2026

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

Annual testing for Nitrate/ Nitrite was not completed by the lab because of the well being off at the time. The testing will resume in 2026.

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 Alan Bleam at 215.766.0189.

Certified by:

Signature: Kevin R. Johnson

Date: 06.29.2026

Print Name and Title: Operations Manager III

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: Email delivery/ posted on website.

PWS ID#: 1090157

Date distributed: 07.03.2026

