

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

MON VALLEY

WATER QUALITY



412
Justice 2023



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Thank You..Now let's change it!

Letter from the Organizer

#WaterisAHumanRight

DEAR COMMUNITY,

We at 412 Justice present this report to the people in the Mon Valley so that everyone can have a read-able summary of the environmental harms affecting Mon Valley residents, many of them having negative impacts on their health and wellbeing (especially youth and seniors). This document provides an overview of the history, problems, and solutions associated with water quality in the Mon Valley.

In July 2010 the United Nations General assembly recognized having access to clean water and sanitation as a Human Right. This means that everyone is entitled to have clean water no matter their race, class, sex, ect; and it's our government's responsibility to ensure that all of us have that right. Unfortunately in Allegheny County lead was detected in 80 percent of our water systems. This includes the city of Pittsburgh, who's lead crisis sparked mass lead line replacement within the county. **PWSA who services the city has replaced more than 8,800 public lead service lines and 5,800 private lead service lines to improve their resident's water quality.** In the Mon Valley very few water systems are doing partial replacement with even fewer doing full replacements.



With our pipe infrastructure being one of the oldest and lead-filled systems in the nation, it's necessary that we improve our water infrastructure. Like our roads and bridges, our crumbling water systems are doing more harm than good. Replacing these lines not only improves how our water system works, but it also has a great impact on our communities health especially for children. Families with contaminated water aren't just consuming this water but they are bathing in it, cleaning with it, and brushing their teeth with it which are always these contaminants that can get into their system. This long-term exposure can have damaging effects on children's learning and physical abilities. Many times throughout this report we will remind you that the healthiest level of lead is ZERO, and our standards as you'll read are nowhere near that number.

Even though we have groups like Get the Lead Out or the Our Water campaign, we can't fix 80% of our water system alone. With money coming in for infrastructure it's important that we prioritize cleaning our water as it is a necessity for our wellbeing. So please support everyone who took part in putting this information together for your easy reading (in the acknowledgement section). If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to us at info@412justice.org. We hope you enjoy the report and join us the fight for #CleanAirforAllegheny

WITH LOVE & SOLIDARITY,
NATISHA C WASHINGTON

Mon Valley Water Service History

Prior to the 1800s many residents relied on the rivers for all their water needs with many building wells in their backyard, this resulted in many water-related illnesses. After the 1800 many water pumps were put into place around the county to pump water into the areas growing in population, especially the city.

The Mon Valley is home to five water municipalities:

1. **Wilkesburg Penn Joint Watershed Association (WPJWA)**
2. **Braddock Water Authority**
3. **City of Duquesne Water Department**
4. **Westmoreland County Municipal Authority (WMCMA)**
5. **Pennsylvania American Water (PAAW)**

For local comparison we will also be talking about the Pittsburgh city water authority Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA). Even though there is still more work to be done by PWSA, they have taken great steps with the community to improve the quality of their water.



Wilkesburg Penn Joint Watershed Association (WPJWA)

In 1946, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved the purchase of the Pennsylvania Water Company by the newly founded Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA). WPJWA is the fifth largest water authority in the state and currently serves a total of 40,000 customers. It serves:

- **Braddock Hills,**
- **Chalfant,**
- **Churchill,**
- **East McKeesport,**
- **East Pittsburgh,**
- **Edgewood,**
- **Forest Hills,**
- **North Braddock,**
- **Pitcairn,**
- **Rankin,**
- **Swissvale,**
- **Trafford,**
- **Turtle Creek,**
- **Wilkesburg,**
- **Wilkes Township,**
- **Wilmerding**
- and Parts of:**
 - Braddock,
 - Monroeville,
 - Penn Hills,
 - North Huntingdon,
 - North Versailles
 - small portion of Pittsburgh.

Their water passes through pipes regulated by the Distributed Energy Resource (DER), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). This means that these two departments are responsible for ensuring the water in these pipes meet their standards. So if those standards change this authority would be required to have their water meet those standards/regulations.

Mon Valley Water Service History cont.

WPJWA cont.

From 2016 to 2019 their water's lead levels have been going up, with recent levels testing just below the federal action level of 15 ppb (the water crisis level). Just as a reminder, NO level of lead is healthy so being close to crisis is still dangerous. So in 2021, WPJWA received a \$9.3 million dollar grant from PennVest to replace around 1,000 lead service lines which unfortunately will not cover the whole service area. Even though partial replacements are starting in the Summer of 2022 we are not clear on where they were done, and community engagement has yet to be done to educate residents on the replacement process or future replacements happening in 2024.



In addition to this, their service area has some of the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning in Allegheny County, which has been proven to contribute to permanent developmental and behavioral problems in children ages 1-5 years old. In the city they used free home lead testing as well as blood testing to homes and areas that were most at risk. We hope in the future WPJWA will offer this same testing to their youth.

Unfortunately WPJWA doesn't provide customer assistance funding for those who are struggling to pay their water bills either. While nearly 1 in 6 customer accounts became delinquent during the pandemic and since 2019 they've had 22,354 shut offs (over half of their residential customers). It was estimated that low-income families in the WPJWA service area would need to work 20.35 hours at minimum wage (\$150+) to pay for their monthly water and sewer bill. They're currently raising their rates by 5% and with water bills becoming the 2nd highest bills for families, it's important that we make sure that having access to water isn't a burden, especially with low-income families. We will talk more about affordability later in this report.



Currently, the Authority is governed by a twelve member Board representing the serviced community. WPJWA doesn't allow residents in the room for board meetings and it doesn't broadcast or livestream the meetings either but does allow public speaking through email or a speakerphone in the lobby. Thanks to the efforts of the Our Water Tables we have been able to start making a community-based relationship with the authority. We hope to work with them to better serve and engage the community in the future as they plan out the next phase of replacements

Photo credit: Patrick Doyle (90.5 WESA)

Mon Valley Water Service History cont.

Braddock Water Authority

The first public water system in Braddock was constructed between 1867 and 1895. This system served all of Braddock except the area above Mills Avenue which was served by the Pennsylvania Water Company (currently WPJWA). After an annexation in 1893, the borough installed larger water lines in the new streets for fire protection. Homes built before the annexation remain connected to WPJWA and homes built after remain connected to the Braddock Borough system.

In 1972 the borough water department was faced with several problems including poor water quality coming from an open reservoir exposed to airborne pollution. That same year the borough council formed the Braddock Water Authority to finance a connection to the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint system for their supply of water, and they added a rubber cover to the reservoir.



In 1974 The authority took out a \$3.5 million loan to rebuild the entire system; some partial lines were replaced at a small scale due to limited funds. So in 1990 the water authority was awarded \$4.7 Million to help complete the replacement of all water lines and built a new storage tank. By 2017, a change to state law gave municipal authorities the legal ability to replace private water lines too with customer consent. Council president Tina Doose stated that delay in replacements were due to Braddock being "An Act 47 community," which refers to a Pennsylvanian recovery program for financially distressed municipalities. With more infrastructure funds coming into the county, we hope that more replacements can be made to fully improve this system.

Currently Braddock Water Authority buys all of its water from the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority. Similar to PWSA, the Department Environmental Protection (DEP) mandates them to do semi-annual water testing. Recent drinking-water samples showed lead levels at 23 parts per billion (ppb) which is above the "action level" under the federal Lead and Copper Rule, enforced by the DEP. Having levels this high is dangerous to the health of the community, especially children.



Duquesne Water Department

When we first started this report there was little to no information about the authority outside of the known fact that they purchase their water from Westmoreland County Municipal Water Authority. The only additional information we had at the time came from the efforts and interview from former Mayor Nickole Nesbey (their first black mayor) who is actively working to resolve issues within her communities. During her time in office she found that the water quality issue was worse than she thought. After multiple efforts to bring attention to the water contamination, Ms. Nesby found her concerns becoming unheard by her governmental peers.

Mon Valley Water Service History

Duquesne Water Department cont.

Her speaking out amongst other incidents lead to her being censured by her own council. For those who may not know, censuring is a formal statement that expresses severe disappointment in someone or something and it leads to her not being re-elected. As a passionate community member and policy advocate, she continues to work on solving community issues.

In 2021 the authority put out an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and even though they claim that their drinking water meets federal and state requirements...but like we've mentioned before ZERO is the healthiest and safest level. The report is not user friendly but does have lots of information inside of it. Most of the information is definitions of scientific words, random chunks of information, and numbers or links residents can refer to. Not much transparency or accountability is given in this report, so we hope to get more information in the future.

Westmoreland County Municipal Authority (WMCMA)

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) was developed over the past 75+ years through acquiring established systems and planned water line extensions. They currently service over 2,400 miles of pipeline that are supplied by the Beaver Run reservoir and the Youghiogheny River.

The MAWC leased their watershed in 1990 for gas drilling, and about 100 shallow gas wells have been drilled since then. In 2008, drilling for fracking gas in Marcellus shale began near the reservoir. The agency gets a 12.5% payment rate on the gas produced by wells on the reservoir, with funds reaching \$\$ last year. Utility officials say leasing Beaver Run allows it to raise money for infrastructure upgrades without increasing customer rates. Fracking causes a big stew of air pollution that can get in the air and water. Exposure to the 1,000-plus chemicals used in fracking are harmful to human health like severe headaches, asthma symptoms, childhood leukemia, cardiac problems, birth defects and many are known to cause cancer.



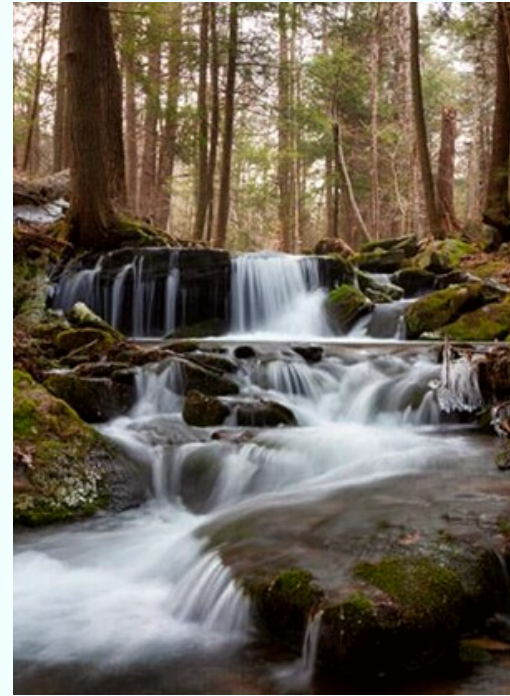
In June of 2013 The state Department of Environmental Protection cited Consol Energy's CNX Gas after 100 gallons of recycled frack wastewater spilled into the ground at a pad (where the fracking process is done) near the Beaver Run Reservoir. The authority worked with faculty and students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania to test both air and water with reports coming back normal?. In 2019 The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection fined CNX \$175,000 for allowing a gas well failure near the drinking water reservoir in Westmoreland County. So, They plan to re-new their testing this year to ensure the drinking-water quality meets healthy standards.

Mon Valley Water Service History

WMCMA cont.

This water system is currently served by the following three water treatment facilities, do you know which one services you?

- The Indian Creek Supply Filtration Plant near Connellsville, serves the southern portion of the MAWC service territory and the North Versailles area.
- The McKeesport Filtration Plant, located in the City of McKeesport, was completed in 1990. This plant supplies water from the Youghiogheny River to serves the McKeesport, White Oak and Port Vue portion of the MAWC service territory.
- The George R. Sweeney Water Treatment Plant is located at the Beaver Run Reservoir in Bell Township. This facility replaced a smaller filtration plant and went online in 1997 and serves the northern portion of the MAWC service territory.
- In Allegheny county, MAWC also sells bulk water to Duquesne, Monroeville, and Plum.



Pennsylvania American Water (PAAW)

Founded in 1886, Pennsylvania American Water (PAW) has been serving customers and communities for more than 125 years. Since then American Water grew as it purchased smaller systems around the state and now nation. In 2017 they purchased the city of McKeesport's wastewater authority for around \$159 million. **The authority is currently in McKeesport, Dravosburg, Duquesne, East McKeesport, Elizabeth Township, Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, North Versailles, Port View, Versailles and White Oak.**

As the only privately-owned water authority, PAW has been the example of what water privatization in the county would/will look like. As you'll read later in this report, there are cons to privatization like lack of transparency and unaffordability. As the fifth most expensive water supplier in the US It is surprising that this utility is often requesting rate hikes that you will learn more in the affordability section. Even though they have invested in replacing the aging pipe infrastructure they own, it has come at a cost to residents.



Mon Valley Water Service History

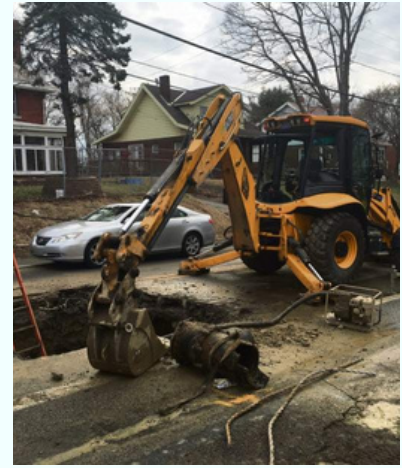
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)

The rapid growth of the city led to many pump stations servicing the expanding county and city. By 1908 the water supply of Pittsburgh was finally being filtered, which dropped the high Thyroid fever cases at that time from 5,652 to 500 residents. PWSA was officially created in 1984, and they worked hard to successfully filter the water to Safe drinking standards.

In 2016 an unauthorized change by Private consultant Veolia led to increasing anti-erosion chemicals that stripped away at our already aging pipes. With decades of lead pipe erosion it was inevitable for lead levels to elevate in the city's water. Lead levels in the water were 1.5 times higher than the national action level, which poses serious health risks to residents, particularly children and pregnant people. Since then PWSA held meetings with community members and worked with community organizations to get as many homes tested for lead as possible for FREE. They would then use the results of the test to identify where they would replace lead lines including private lines that reach the home.

In November of 2021 the City of Pittsburgh passed a Lead Safety ordinance that would require properties built before 1978 to be tested for lead. If lead is found, the owner would issue professional remedies, and the city will test to ensure that lead is no longer found. The ordinance focuses on paint, soil and water contaminations and guarantees that any demolitions owned by the city built and before 1978 will be handled in a "lead-safe manner." This work is utilizing more than \$70 Million of the American Rescue Plan Funds to ensure it's being done on all homes containing lead.

Currently PWSA's lead levels are in compliance with state and federal standards, and are improving more every year. Since 2016 they've replaced 9,915 lead lines throughout the service, while also providing customers with free lead tests.

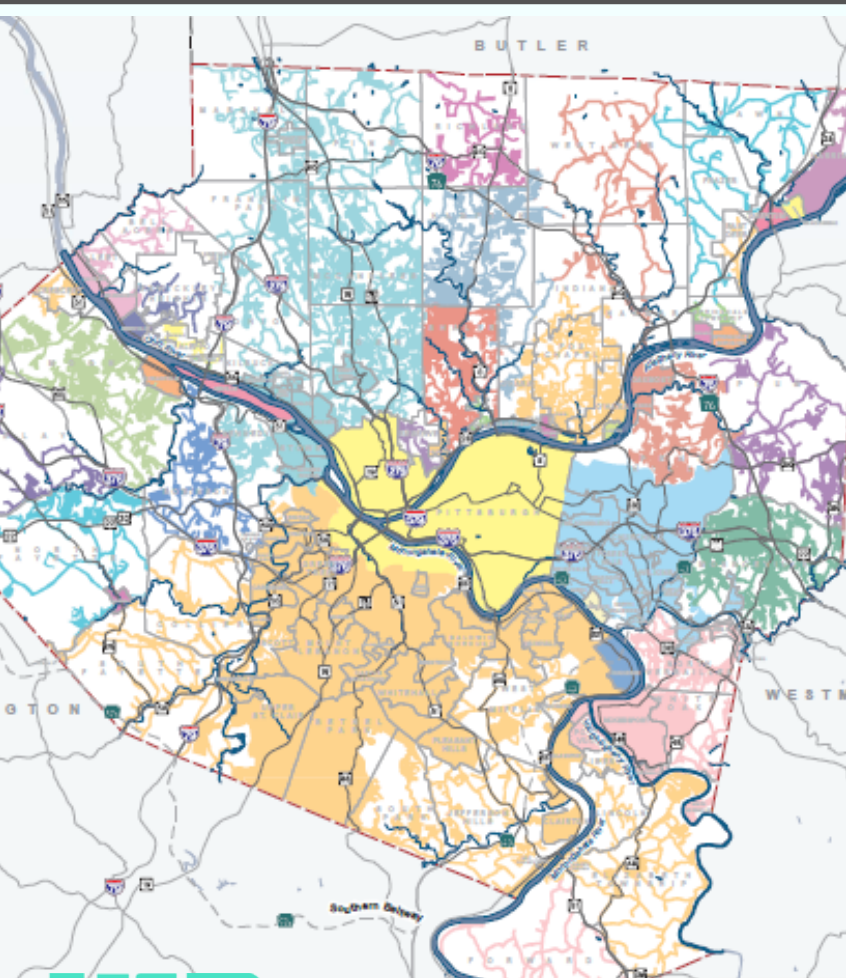


McKeesport 1889

ALCOSAN's History

In 1946, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority was created under Pennsylvania's Municipal Authorities Act to design, construct and operate a system and treatment plant for residential, commercial, and industrial wastewater throughout the county. In 2004 communities signed a consent order to assess and repair their sewage collection systems. **By order of the consent decree, ALCOSAN is required to reduce the amount of sewage-laced storm water that flows into the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers whenever the region gets rain.** Due to the county's combined sewer system much of the county's sewage waste is mixed in with stormwater (that has been increasing every year) and dumped into our river which prevents it from having a healthy aquatic life or fully enjoyable recreational activities like kayaking due to the pollution that fills our water.

The record-setting rainfall and increasingly violent thunderstorms happening in our area have increased risk to public safety, caused property damage, degraded the environment and generally lowered our quality of life. Residents often complain about the increase of flooded roads that is leading to devastating landslides, sinkholes, and flooded basements. According to the PA Emergency Agency, southwest PA (including all of Allegheny) is highly prone to landslides, and just this year we've had our second wettest year with increased rainfall coming in the new year. One of the solutions proposed is using a stormwater fee to fund green infrastructure projects, which we will talk about later in the report.



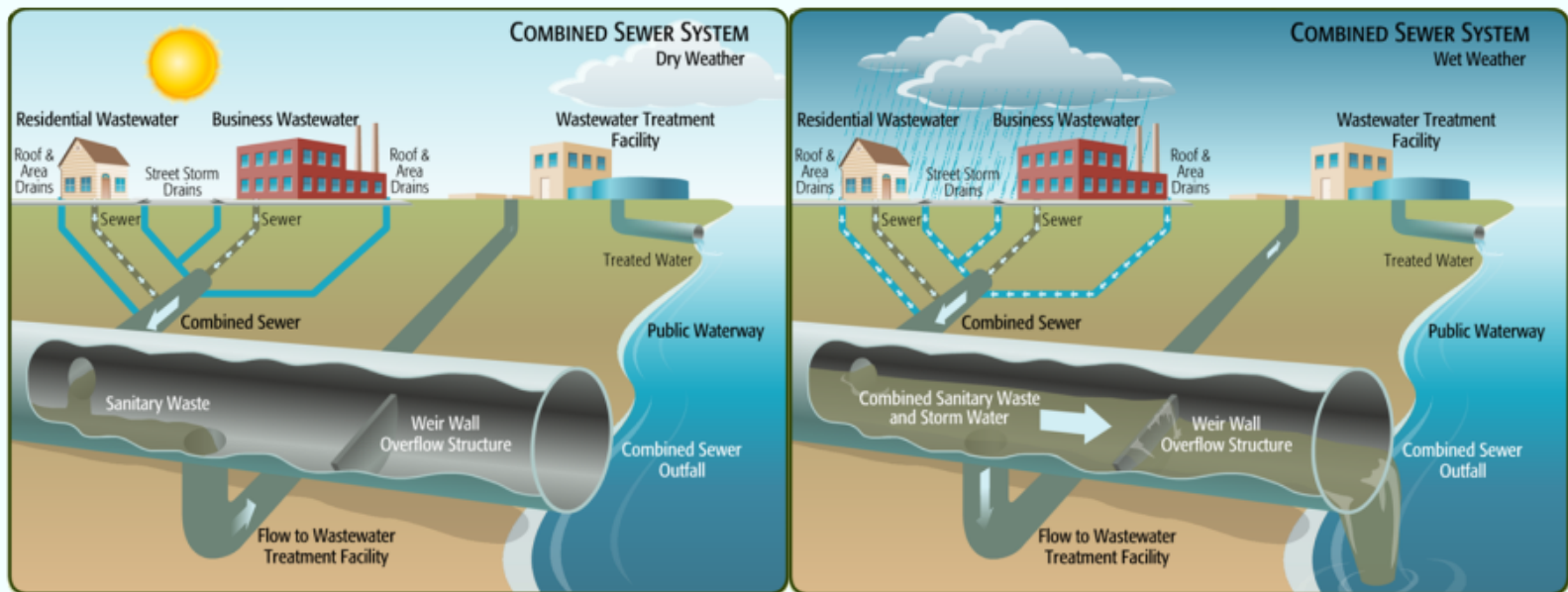
Color	Supplier	Type of Ownership	Water Source
	PWSA	Authority/ Public	Surface
	WPJWA	Authority/ Private?	Surface
	Westmoreland CMA	Authority/ Private?	Surface
	City of Duquesne	Municipal	Purchased <small>*bought from Westmoreland County</small>
	PA American Water Co.	Investor PUC/ Private	Surface

**Duquesne also purchases their water from Westmoreland County*

ALCOSAN Sewage & Lead Toxicity cont.

In 2012, ALCOSAN committed in federal court to reducing their roughly 9 billion gallons of untreated sewage water that flows into local rivers and streams. After years of planning, in 2022. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin in 2025, but there is much pushback from environmental advocates who say this proposed project will not solve our overflow issue. The Clean Water for the Three Rivers report released in October by nonprofit research and policy group PennEnvironment, warns that even with the new tunnels 2.7 billion gallons of sewage may still overflow into waterways annually. This construction (even though well intended) would not only cause lots of construction issues, but it will not be able to solve our solution long-term, as stated by the McKees Rocks borough who is currently suing ALCOSAN for putting their residents' health and safety at risk. Many citizens, environmentalists, and even PWSA pushed for them to take more sustainable approaches like the Green First Plan developed by PWSA or use more of their Green Revitalization of our Waterways (GROW) funds in the city. However, they are still currently moving forward with the construction of their deep tunnel project.

Along with their project there will be a continued multi-year increase of 7% on customer rates until project completion in 2026. **The typical residential customer could expect on average a yearly pay of \$549 on their sewage.**



PGH₂O Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority

Lead Toxicity

Most of the lead in people's water supply today comes from lead service lines running from your house to the water main under the streets? Lead pipes are more likely to be in houses built before 1986 where lead solders on pipes or brass faucets were more common. Over time our water stripped away at the metal in our pipes and lead seeped into the home's water. Even though the county is not responsible or able to replace our in-home pipes, they are able to replace the Water mains and private service lines with the consent from the homeowner or landlord. This along with filters could help lower many residents' exposure to the leaded water that they drink, bathe, clean, and cook with.

ALCOSAN Sewage & Lead Toxicity cont.

"In Allegheny County, over 500 children each year are found to have an elevated lead level. Black children are 4 times more likely to be poisoned by lead"

Lead exposure has been a trending topic in the environmental and health world partly due to its effects on young children. Between 2015 and 2019, nearly 850 children in Allegheny County were diagnosed with lead poisoning. In 2018, Allegheny County responded to this high number by enacting a universal blood lead testing policy. This policy required that young children be tested for lead by their doctors. By 2019 data from the first year of testing showed that 481 kids under six years old had elevated blood lead levels. In those results they also found that 4% of Black children in Allegheny County under six years old had elevated blood lead levels; 3% of Hispanic children; and only 1% of white children also have elevated levels (WESA). In 2020 that number had dropped to 341 children, but a year later the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lowered its blood lead levels threshold which showed more than 500 children within the county were with elevated levels.

"Homes built before 1978 are more likely to have lead-based paint, and homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead plumbing."

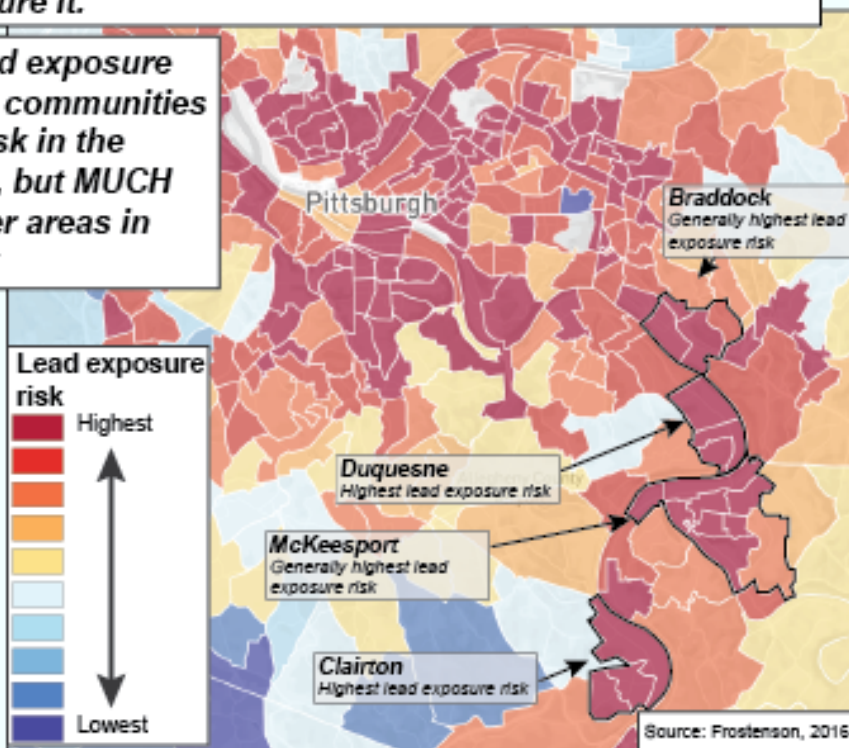
Let's be very clear in saying **NO LEVEL OF LEAD exposure in children is safe**. Even low levels, below the CDC threshold, show to have negative cognitive and behavioral impacts on children with Black and brown children being disproportionately exposed. The CDC stated that: ""Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health, including damage to the brain and nervous system, this can cause slowed growth and development, as well as learning and behavior problems, and/or hearing and speech problems"

While you're likely to be exposed to lead in urban areas, the only way to know for sure if you have been, or if lead is present is to measure it.

In general, the lead exposure risk in Mon Valley communities is similar to the risk in the City of Pittsburgh, but MUCH HIGHER than other areas in Allegheny County

No public water suppliers in the Mon Valley communities offer free lead tests, but they have testing available at cost

Community	Public Water Supplier	Offers Free Lead Testing?
Braddock	Braddock Boro	No
	Wilksburg Penn	No
Clairton	PA.American Water	No
Duquesne	Duquesne Muni	?
McKeesport	MAWC McKeesport	No

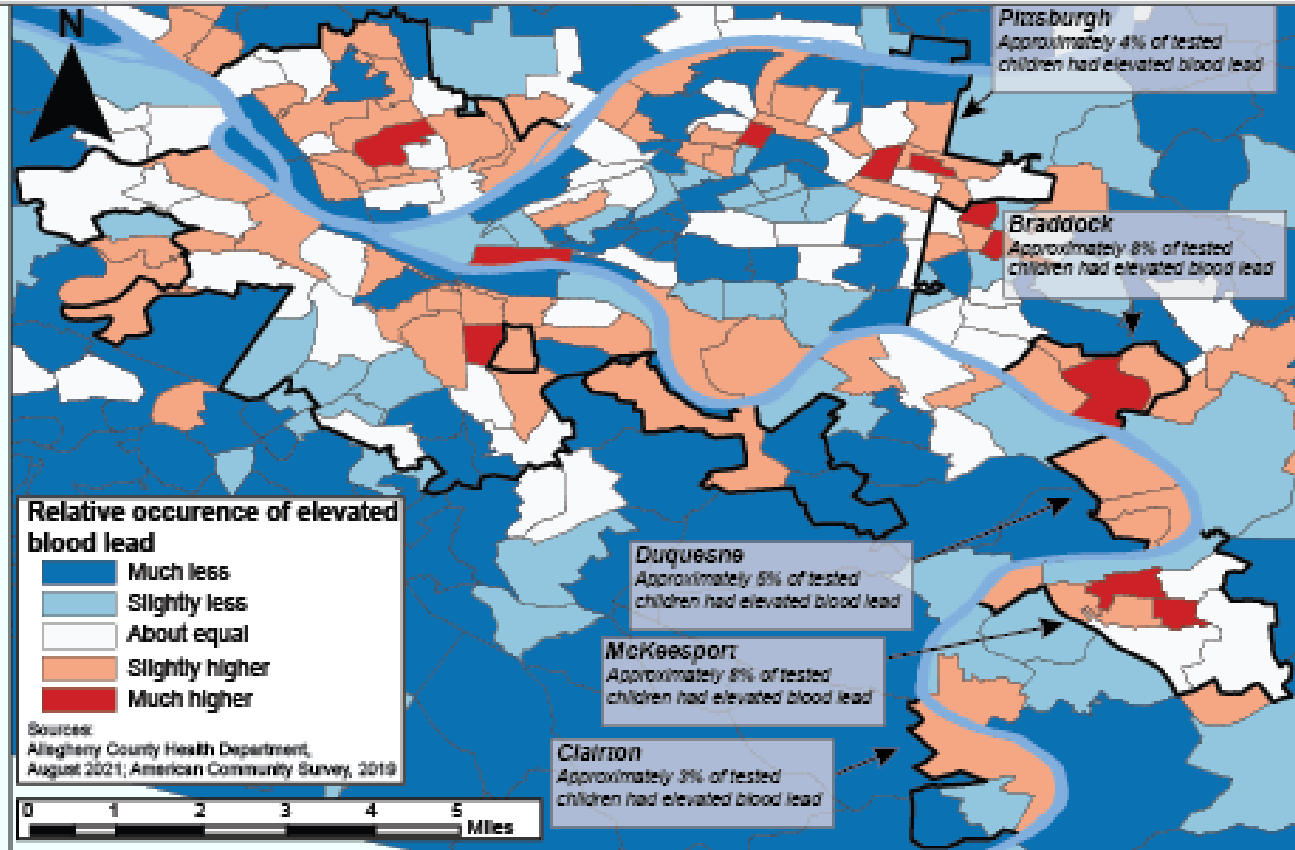


ALCOSAN Sewage & Lead Toxicity cont.

Even though water is the most consumed of lead in homes, lead paint is the primary source of lead exposure, with soil contamination being a close second. Lead paint was commonly used until 1978, so many homes built before that time do still have lead paint in them. When the lead paint chips begin peeling or are buried in the soil during demolition/renovation, the resulting dust contains lead that can easily be digested from the hands of children.

We hope, like the city, the county will implement a county-wide ordinance that would require all authorities to develop and implement a service-wide plan to remove lead from their water.

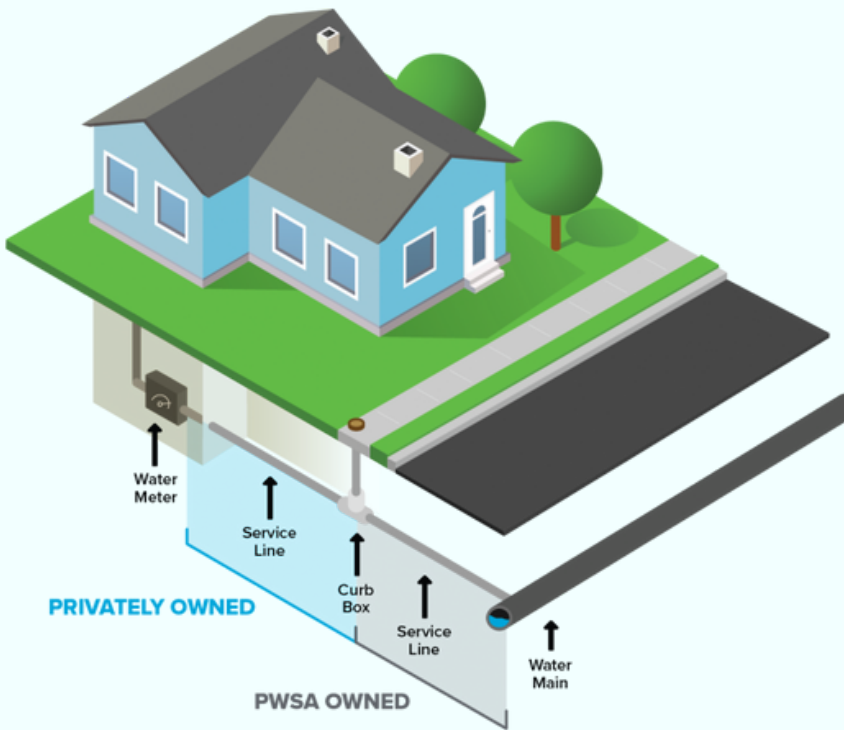
Blood lead levels in children 6 & younger in Mon Valley communities are generally similar to those in the City of Pittsburgh, but higher than other areas in Allegheny County



via www.mawc.org

1. Need to be replace lead pipes to lower lead levels in water

During the Pittsburgh lead crisis PWSA was given a civil penalty of \$2.4 million by the DEP. Up to \$1.8 million went towards community improvements such as replacing lead lines, and a combined \$500,000 was donated to the nonprofit Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) and Allegheny County's Safe and Healthy Homes program to protect local communities from lead exposure. WHE used the funds to provide residents (especially mothers with children) with water filters and education, while also surveying the community to find out the current state of their water. This study resulted in their **2021 Something's in the Water Report** that provided us much information in this report and will have a new report coming next year



The county used their funds to implement the Safe and Healthy Homes program (currently the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes program) which provided residents with free home health and safety inspections and lead paint removal to homes with high levels. They work to prioritize low-income homes that have children under 6 years old (find more info in the resource section), Since the replacements of lead lines the 481 kids under six years old that had elevated blood dropped to 341 by 2020. There are around 371,656 people in between the ages of 40 and 54 in western PA who likely experienced high levels of lead exposure as children.

Lead detected in 80% of Allegheny County's water systems

Just as a reminder, the healthiest level of lead for kids is ZERO, but in 2020 data from a the Childhood Lead Surveillance report (by the PA Department of Health) showed the rate of children with elevated blood lead levels to were about 4.65. This is a rate two times higher than children poisoned in Flint, Michigan, at the peak of the city's crisis. Due to this shocking find the Health department lowered the lead level threshold which is sure to show a higher number of elevated children in 2022.

How many contaminants are in your water?

To learn more about the contaminants in your water, go to www.ewg.org/tapwater



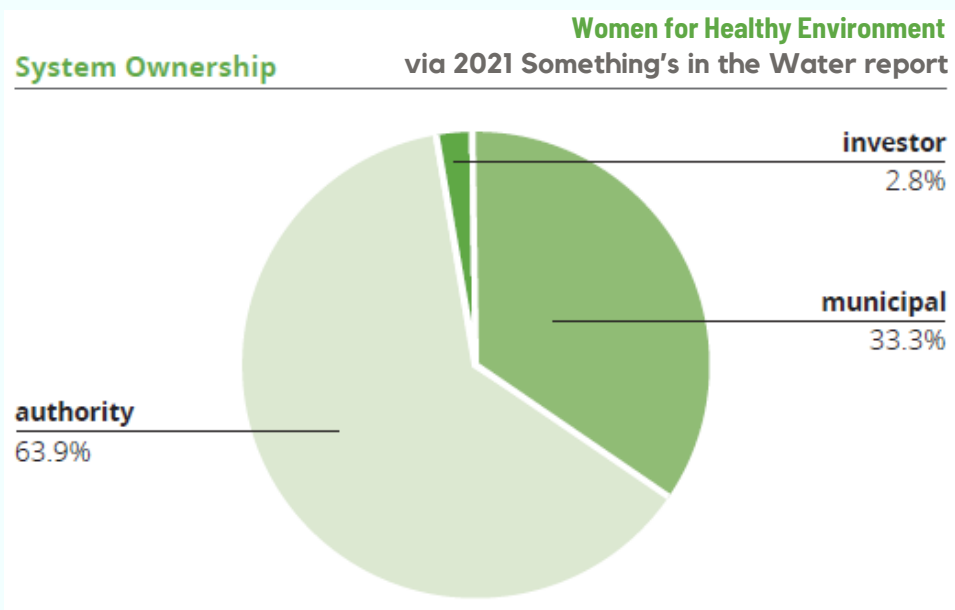
1. Need to be replace lead pipes to lower lead levels in water cont.

In 2021 the American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund helped the City of Pittsburgh replace up to 750 public lead lines but it is unknown if some of Allegheny county's ARP funds are going towards replacements outside of the city. PennVest has awarded funds to WPJWA, who received a \$9.3 Million grant to replace approximately 1,000 lead service lines, PWSA also received funds to do their replacements. Even with all the money received and work done residents are still suffering in many areas around the county with low quality water. In our community survey we found that many residents only used bottled water for drinking due to families experiencing continuous water advisories with no response to their residents' concerns and it's sometimes brown in color. In the next section we will talk more on how lack of transparency negatively affects the community.

2. Lack of transparency with water utility companies, especially those that are privately-owned

The Women for Healthy Environment (WHE) did an in-depth report called Something's in the Water in 2021. They gathered all the information they could find from our local water authorities through a Right-to-Know request. A rights to know request by law provides citizens access with public information which includes knowing what's in your water amongst other information. As seen in their Water System Oversight graphic 63.9% of systems are overseen by a Board of Directors often appointed by local elected officials, 33.3% of systems are overseen by local municipalities who provide the highest level of oversight, and 2.8% are investor owned who require no public oversight and many aren't bound by the Public Utility Commission (PUC)

The PUC oversees utility services across the state to ensure safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates, but they are not required by all utility companies. For those that aren't overseen by the PUC they are usually overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department Environmental Protection (DEP), and/or Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). This is why we show up to public comments for so many meetings because many people have different decision-making power and we need our voices heard by all of them.



We found that only 3 of the 5 water systems in the county have public meetings and only two who post their meeting notes to the public. For residents and organizers it is hard to keep up with the actions of these authorities without any public information or community engagement. People are busy and don't have time to research and track down information like our organizers, so we want to ensure that these authorities are as transparent as possible with their customers. This can come in the form of a community advisory board or hosting more accessible public meetings, but transparency is a must for good quality service.

2. Lack of transparency with water utility companies, especially those that are privately-owned cont.

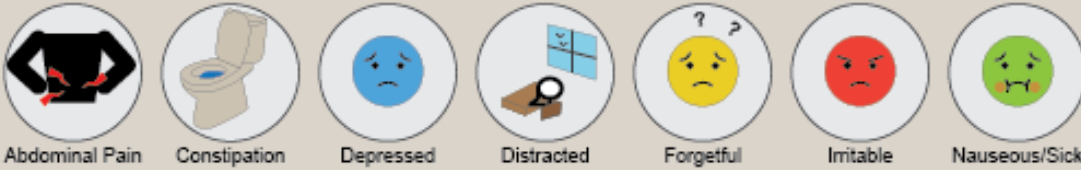
In many reports we read it was commonly found that private companies:

- Have fewer systems for public input, including not having customer assistance programs in place to help customers with late or delinquent bills.
- Water and sewage costs on average are 55 - 58% more than systems run by municipalities and other public entities.
- Water affordability is lower in communities with higher poverty and aging infrastructure, regardless of ownership type
- Their profit-making often opposes the public needs in order to cut corners for raised operating costs that don't result in improved quality. Even when improvements are made it's usually at the expense of higher bills.

Just recently in 2022 the PA Senate passed bill 597 (introduced by republican Stefano Fayette), which was supposed to ensure all residents received high-quality water with meaningful oversight. This "meaningful oversight" however has been criticized by fellow democrats senators like John Kean who said "the bill will make it easier for major water companies like Aqua America and PA American Water (who helped back this bill) to take over smaller municipal water companies, against the interests of ratepayers. Having bills like this passed can be very dangerous for smaller municipalities who are financially struggling, leading to a more private than public water system. So if you are against this change be sure to let your Senators know so that they are aware this is not in their voters' best interest.

Lead contamination is common in urban areas, has multiple health effects, and lead is not safe at ANY amount

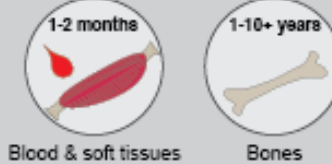
Effects of Short-Term Lead Exposure¹



Effects of Long-Term Lead Exposure¹



How long does it take for lead in the human body to decrease by half?²



Lifelong Impacts of Lead Exposure to Children³



Sources:
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead/topics/leadhealth.html>
https://www.cdc.gov/dmrt/monitoring/Lead_BiomonitoringSummary.html
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead/prevention/health-effects.html>

3. Water in low-income communities is not as safe or affordable as it is claimed to be

It is not unknown by residents in the Mon Valley that the water is bad. Many people that were surveyed by 412 Justice made many statements on how they've never drunk the sometimes brown water in their home and only utilize water bottles for drinking. Even though facilities claim that the water is "not that bad..unless consumed long-term" in many reports but water violations, and even residents say otherwise. In 2019, more than half water systems in Allegheny County reported water quality violations. Eighty percent of water systems had detectable lead levels and only 36% had lead line information on their sites. So to say the water is bad is harmful to residents is harmful especially with children who group up being exposed to this water LONG-TERM.



Water Buffalo used during advisory

On July 17, 2021 a fire broke out in the 10th ward of McKeesport and firefighters were instructed to use fire foam which contains per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These PFAS have been shown to lower birth rates, impact milk production, elevate cholesterol, increase chances of testicular cancer and many more health impacts are being tested. This event resulted in **all residents in the 10th ward being put on a "Do Not Use" water advisory that lasted a couple days for some and almost a month for others.** This meant residents under the advisory could not use their water outside of using the bathroom or washing dishes. After a few days of the advisory the city set up transportation for residents to take showers at the McKeesport High school and set up water buffalos on Atlantic Ave till further testing was done. On August 12, 2021 the advisory was finally lifted but concerns of water quality still remained. After receiving no response from the council on addressing residents' concerns, the Women for Healthy Environment organization partnered with community organization Take Action Mon Valley to distribute water filters to residents for free.

Photo via Mon Valley Independent



In March of this year Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) filed lawsuit against more than two dozen chemical companies, accusing them of manufacturing toxic substances and contaminating the local water system. They hope with this lawsuit that they will be able to cover the cleaning expenses and hopefully further remediation work to fully clean the water.

Later in the summer, in June residents and organizers provided public comment at a board meeting to further express their concerns for the still present PFAS in the water. During the meeting Carla Ng, an assistant professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, said "homes tested in McKeesport were thousands of times greater than the new drinking water standards." Follow up on these concerns have yet to be addressed but with this being recent we hope there will be information soon.

PFAS - The Forever Chemical

PFAs, also known as "Forever Chemicals" are commonly known to increase the risk of illnesses like decreased fertility, reduce the body's immune system, negatively affects the development of children, and increases a person's risk of some Cancers. These chemicals that really does take "forever" to break down are not only present in our drinking water, but it is also in our air, soil, food, household products, food packaging, and as mentioned before it's also in fire extinguishing foam.

About a third of water utilities in the 412 systems that were tested last year by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now above the EPA threshold for either PFOA, PFOS or both. Even though the EPA has done much research on this subject there are still 3 important things they still haven't figured out that are important to the improvement of this issue. These questions are:

1. How many people are exposed to PFAS
2. How harmful PFAS are to people and the environment
3. How to remove PFAS from drinking water

We hope that in this upcoming year the EPA will propose stronger regulations and more investment in cleaning this out of our water like they're doing with lead.



PFAS Exposure Pathways,
European Environmental Agency

Affordability

Photo of ALCOSAN by 90.5 WESA



In 2019, Allegheny County community water systems had on average 3,927 water-shut-off notices, with a maximum of 49,852. In April of 2020 the average monthly water and sewer bill for residents was \$118.27, and PAW requested a rate hike that would increase bills to \$146.58 a month. Hikes like this were unfortunately common with private authorities even during the pandemic and it left many families worried about losing their water.

At the end of 2021 the PA Department of Human Services found that households in the state collectively owed more than \$50 million in overdue water bills. This made the lifting of the moratorium for shut offs even more difficult for families that were already experiencing a hard time. The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) and PA American Water (PAW) was not affected by the PUC's moratorium though because they are not PUC regulated. **Last year, sewer bills for the McKeesport system, which includes Duquesne, shot up 38% (\$19.82).**

Affordability cont

In response to this issue, they designated American Rescue Plan funds to launch the Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). **LIHWAP was a temporary state program that forgave up to \$2,500 in water and \$2,500 in wastewater bills.** This program ran from January to October 2022 and was utilized by all water and wastewater to give out a total of \$43 million in aid throughout the state. Since this program will end in September 2023 many community organizations are looking to ensure residents who are eligible are taking full advantage of this resource. (Please check the resource tab for more information). Despite this in April 2022, PAW proposed another increase to the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) but they voted against it. They do however have till Jan 2023 to make a final decision but with them recently having an increase approved it doesn't seem right to approve another in such a short time.

Item	Amount
Balance	\$861.15
Payment	-\$150.00
Current Balance	\$103.37
Water Charge	-\$15.00
Wastewater Charge	\$799.52
Total	\$103.37
Other Charges	\$39.22
Service Charge	\$1.96
Customer Assistance Program	\$62.19
Actual	21
Actual	21

PGH2O

Did you know that you can pay your bill online? Enroll in paperless billing, sign up for automatic payments, and more. Visit pgh2o.com for more information.

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
1200 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Pay-By-Phone
1-833-660-1366 - 24 hours a day

Customer Service
412-255-2423 - Press Menu Option 1
info@pgh2o.com
Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM

24/7 Water/Sewer Emergencies
412-255-2423 - Press Menu Option 2

Customer Assistance Program
Dollar Energy Fund - 1-866-767-6666

Having difficulty paying your PV Energy Fund to see if you qualify for assistance, call 1-866-767-6666.

- 1) Protection from shut-off in winter
- 2) Discount on your fixed, monthly bill
- 3) A cash grant to help pay your bill

If provided, residents look to customer assistance programs (CAP) to assist them during financial hardships or crises. PWSA offers multiple forms of assistance for income-qualified customers, and PA American Water offers customers a roughly 30% discount on their average bills. Unfortunately the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority, Braddock Water Authority, Duquesne Water Authority and MAWC don't currently have an assistance program. We continue to work with community members and fellow organizers to not only get authorities to provide resources, but to also make resources more available to residents.

Conclusion

In section 120 of the PA constitution it states that "THE PEOPLE have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.

Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come." This means the state is required to provide its people with that right. As you've read this right has not been fully fulfilled and our natural resources seem more like private property instead of common property.

As it's been proven in other municipalities, lead line replacement along with water filters would greatly reduce residents exposure to lead, especially children. With funds coming in for infrastructure work we hope all authorities are able to take action in improving their systems. However we can not ensure all residents are tested and serviced unless we get in touch with as many residents as possible. This can be achieved if authorities work with community organizations and political leaders to engage their communities. Lastly, we want to ensure that the water their communities are receiving is not only safe to drink but affordable. Residents shouldn't have to live without working utilities just because they've hit hard times or have a chemical spill in their water supply. So below we are going to talk about some ways we can alleviate these barriers





How do we make it safe to drink

1. Require all authorities to do full lead replacements of service lines and lower regulations

Replacing lead lines is the best and easiest way to greatly reduce lead levels in our water. Even though we can't change pipes inside the home we can and have gotten funds to provide residents with filters that can reduce their families exposure. In addition to these free water filters, families can also get a lead test done on your home through the free Home Lead Inspection and the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes program run by the ACHD.

For the last few years Governor Tom Wolf made a Lead-free commitment that distributed \$56.2 million in 2021 and \$14.6 million in 2022. Many of those funds went to PWSA (with some funds being loaned), but as mentioned above **\$9.3 million went to Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority.** With the governor race ending this year we can only hope and VOTE for a governor that will continue this commitment so that more authorities can benefit from this resource.

White House funding

As you may have seen in recent news, Pennsylvania has been the poster child for infrastructure improvements so lots of funds have been entering our state. Below is a summary of those funds.



First the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed in 2021. They invested more than \$50 billion through EPA's highly successful water infrastructure programs including efforts like:

- \$20+ billion for safe drinking water.
- \$15 billion in dedicated funding to replace lead pipes.
- \$12+ billion to ensure clean water for communities.
- \$1.8 billion to protect regional waters.
- \$135 million for additional water improvements



1. Require all authorities to do full lead replacements of service lines and lower regulations cont.

In the same year the Build Back Better plan also allocated some of its \$1.7 billion funds to improve our water infrastructure amongst other things like:

- \$15 billion of it went to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), and an additional \$11.7 billion was eligible for lead pipes replacement.
- \$9 billion went to remediation grants for disadvantaged communities through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) program, which included schools and childcare centers.
- \$5 billion went to the cleaning and removal of lead-based paint, lead faucets and fixtures, and other housing-related health hazards in low-income households, by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); this can include replacing publicly lead pipes and privately-owned service lines.

During Kamala Harris' visit to Pittsburgh in June she met with those working in water quality advocacy (including Women for Healthy Environment) and publicly gave more attention to the lead pipe and paint action plan within their infrastructure plan. This gave us some national attention to our county-wide issue. **In July of this year the Whole Home Repair program passed which is planned to provide up to \$50,000 in repairs, updates, and adaptation to homes throughout Pennsylvania.** More on this program will be talked about in our housing report.



CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



Better Regulations Coming?!

Although the county did require mandatory blood lead level testing for all children 9-12 months, no other county-wide regulations have been passed by Allegheny county.

Federally the Lead and Copper Rule - a federal regulation that limits the concentration of lead and copper allowed in public drinking water - will have new revisions going into effect December 16th. These revisions will better protect children from the risks of lead exposure by better protecting children at schools and child care facilities, getting the lead out of our nation's drinking water, and empowering communities through information. The EPA plans to issue guidance—including best practices, case studies, and templates to help develop lead service line inventories—to assist its partners in implementation of the rule.

How do we make it safe to drink cont.

2. Require more transparency and accountability from all authorities (even private ones)

We can't fix a problem if we don't know all the details! As unfortunate as the numbers may be, we need to know enough details in order to figure out how we can go about solving these issues. Having more transparency from authorities no matter their ownership could resolve much confusion and concern amongst residents. If a facility decides to change the chemicals in our water we should know about it prior to seeing it on the news. In cases like the one in McKeesport we should be constantly testing the water and updating residents on it's toxicity levels.

In June of this year the Senate passed Bill 597, which was named the Water Quality Accountability Act. This bill would require public water systems with more than 750 customers to develop and give the state an asset management plan. That plan would include a schedule for identifying and replacing infrastructure like old pipes and meters, as well as the

estimated cost of such projects and the projected rate increases needed to afford them. Currently the bill is waiting to be voted on by our House Reps in the hopes of making this a law. Even though this does not improve all of our transparency needs it does provide us with more public information on what our municipalities are doing to improve water quality. The only downside to this bill is like many other restrictions, this only affects our public water municipalities, not private ones.

No matter the ownership, residents shouldn't have to constantly ask their water providers about the quality and improvement of their water. This should be public information for residents to review and submit their concerns about if they are receiving poor quality service that's affecting their health...and with a speedy response!



Photo of Riverwise Magazine

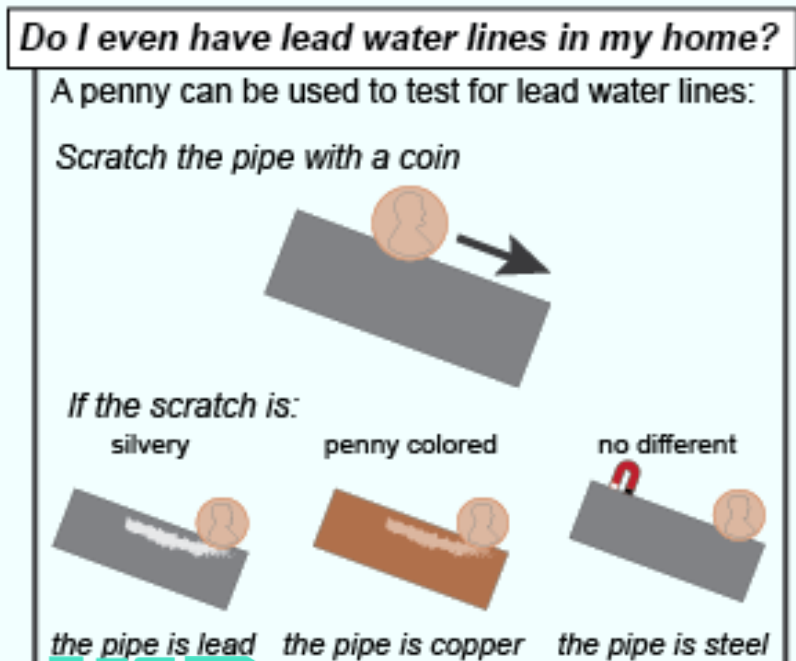


Photo of Inside Climate News

2. Require more transparency and accountability from all authorities cont.

For facilities to be more transparent with their residents they need to consistently:

- **Inform the public in an accessible way**
 - Public meetings should be open and accessible for all residents to make public comments on. If they're not recording their meeting they should at least have notes available online.
 - There are different forms of public engagement that can be used like community advisory boards, community listening sessions/public hearing, and even presenting at local community events can be helpful.
 - A community advisory board can be a group of residents, organizers, and facility reps that come together to better serve the community.
- **Notify customers when contaminants (especially lead) are at harmful levels**
 - If facilities can call customers about their bills, they can also call or text us about our water being unsafe to drink. Alert systems (even non-digital) ones can ensure the health and safety of residents during...
 - Facilities should have simplified and transparent reports about their current water quality, with information on how it realistically affects customer's health. In these reports they can also provide useful resources to further assist customers who have unclean water.
 - Water filter distributions and installations are a resource that can better assist customers during boil water advisory days, and should be at little to no cost to residents.
- **Third-party audits of the facility should be done by a non-bias party who shares their reports with the public.**
 - This will ensure that information is kept honest by a group that does not benefit from its narrative/results.



You can check out the Something's in the Water report by Women for Healthy Environment, you can find more information on how authorities can be more transparent and accountable.



3. Provide customer funding/assistance for residents experiencing financial hardship cont.

Utility delinquency is still currently an issue for many residents, prior and post pandemic, people were experiencing shut offs with close to 1 in 6 WPJWA accounts becoming "delinquent" during the pandemic. Being able to wash your body, clean your house, or cook your food shouldn't be a constant worry on families minds. We should make sure we're doing everything we can to ensure that's not the case especially if someone has fallen on hard times. **With rent already being a barrier with residents seeing 267 weekly eviction filings in the county, it would be helpful if they're second biggest bill didn't bankrupt them.**

At PWSA they have greatly increased their sign-ups for assistance like the Dollar Energy Fund and LIHWAP which helped a great majority of their delinquent customers. In 2022, Pennsylvania received \$43.2 million to help families at-risk for having their water shut off due to financial burdens. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services announced the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to ensure low-income communities have access to drinking water and wastewater services. Even with LIHWAP now ended, we hope to find a replacement program to offer residents whose water facilities doesn't offer their own customer assistance program (Dollar Energy Fund being an option)

One of the common options that we offer as a solution to these customer-related issues is having a Community Advisory Council for each facility. Advisory councils can be made up of residents, local organizations, and one or two representatives from the facility. With these councils the community can serve as guiding decision-makers for the customer related issues that are most important to them like customer assistance programs and lead line replacements.

All it takes is for facilities to enter into a contract or MOU (memorandum of understanding) with a selected organization, and we can utilize this effort to hold water facilities accountable.



How to Apply

ONLINE:
www.compass.state.pa.us

REQUEST AN APPLICATION:
 Phone: 1-866-857-7095
 1-800-451-5886 (TDD)

At your local county assistance office

You don't have to be on public assistance or have an unpaid heating bill to qualify.



Conclusion

With the proper investment and education the EJ communities in Allegheny County could get to the proper level of ZERO contaminants, but we need to start now. We need to test all the water so we can improve our old pipes, and provide our residents with the clean water they deserve at an affordable rate. In order to accomplish this, authorities need to engage and work with residents to properly address all of these issues while maintaining a healthy relationship with their customers.

To keep these ending as simple as the report I will conclude all of this by giving you all 3 key actions you can do to stay active in these efforts to clean our community's environment.

1. Sign up Allegheny Alerts to be notified of water advisories amongst other county related alerts, and utilize their resources like LIWHAP before they run out of money.
2. Share your personal concerns in as many public comment meetings as possible, and sign related petitions
3. Hold your decision-makers accountable for all the decisions they make, especially those that negatively impact your community. Their job is to make sure we are provided a clean environment, so make sure they do so with a call, email, or even a personal chat.

PUBLICSOURCE

Description	PWSA	ALCOSAN	PA American Water	Wilksburg-Penn
Customers signed up for discount	4,565 total	2,326 total	Did not say	None
% of total customers signed up for discount	4.5%	0.8%	Did not say	None
% of eligible customers signed up	18%	Did not say	Did not say	None
Additional assistance	Up to \$300. \$15 for each payment.	None	Up to \$500	None
Total customers	100,000	302,000	666,000 statewide, including in Pittsburgh's South Hills	37,000
Limit on assistance spending	None	\$1 million	\$600,000	\$0
Delinquent customers in pandemic	7,787 residential accounts	Unknown (billing handled by municipalities)	Did not say	15% or roughly 5,500
Average customer bill	Water: \$51.77 Sewage: \$23.79	Treatment: \$32.08	Water: \$61.92 Sewage: \$67.94	Water: \$26
Bill discount program (for average bill)	\$36 or 47%	\$11.67 or 27%	\$18.94 or 30%.	None

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, we hope we didn't overwhelm you too much. But with climate change happening rapidly it is important that we get as many people aware of these issue as possible and quickly. As you've read, plans are being made, money is being invested, and more importantly your health is decreasing because of long-term exposure to contaminants like lead. So be sure to take action for clean water!



MONTHLY Community Resources

BY LILLIAN
ENGLISH 101

our's name
Year published

3 Rivers Wet Weather - www.3riverswetweather.org - 3901 Penn Avenue, Bldg 3, 15221 - (412)-578-8375

Action Housing - actionhousing.org - 611 William Penn Place, Suite 800, 15219 - (412) 281-2102

Weatherization Assistance Program - actionhousing.org/our-services/weatherization/

Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) - actionhousing.org/our-services/affordable-home-repairs/

Allegheny County Rehabilitation Program - actionhousing.org/our-services/allegheny-county-rehabilitation-program/

Air & Waste Management Association - www.awma.org - 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2100, 15219 - (412)-232-3444 - info@awma.org

ALCOSAN - www.alcosan.org - 3300 Preble Ave, 15233 - (412) 766-4810

Clean Water Assistance Fund - www.dollarenergy.org/need-help/pennsylvania/alcosan

Allegheny Aquatic Alliance - www.alleghenyaquaticalliance.com - 111 Twin Creek Ln Freedom, 15042 - (412) 862-8217 - alleghenyaquaticalliance@hotmail.com

Allegheny Cleanways (water-based cleanups) - www.alleghenycleanways.org/water-based-cleanups - 100 Hafner Ave, 15223 - (412) 381-1301

**Allegheny County Conservation District - 317 East Carson Street, Suite 119, 15219 - (412) 241-7645
Resource Library - www.accdpa.org/resources**

Community Resources

Allegheny County Health Department -

alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/ - 542 Fourth Ave, 15219 - (412)-687-2243

Allegheny Alerts - <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611110/login-servicedesk@alleghenycounty.us>

Allegheny Lead Safe homes via Action Housing - (412) 227-5700

Aqua - www.aquawater.com - 762 West Lancaster Ave, 19010 - (877) 987.2782

Helping Hand customer assistance program via Dollar Energy Fund

Clean Water Action (Pittsburgh branch) -

cleanwater.org/states/pennsylvania - 100 5th Avenue, Suite 1108, 15222 - (412) 765.3053

Community Justice Project - www.communityjusticeproject.org - 100 Fifth Avenue, Suite 900, 15222 - (412)-434-6002

Child Lead exposure form - www.communityjusticeproject.org/lead-contact-form

Conservation Voters of PA - www.conservationpa.org - P.O. Box 2125, 19103 - (215) 564-3350 - info@conservationpa.org

Drinking Water Reporting System -

www.drinkingwater.state.pa.us - Rachel Carson Building, 400 Market St, 17101

Duquesne Water Department - duquesnepa.us/utilities - 12 South Second Street, 15110 - (412) 466-8535 (no customer assistance program)

2021 Annual Drinking Water Report - http://n.b5z.net/i/u/10068876/f/CCR_2021_Water_Quality_Report.pdf

MONTHLY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Resources

BY LILI NE
ENGLISH 101

BOOK TITLE
Author's name
Year published
ISBN number

**Dollar Energy Fund Hardship program -
dollarenergy.org/needhelp/pennsylvania - P.O. Box 42329, 15203
- (412) 431-2800**

Covered providers:

- Allegheny County Sanitary Authority - ALCOSAN
- Aqua
- Citizens Electric
- Clairton Municipal Authority
- Columbia Gas
- Duquesne Light Company
- Lehigh County Authority
- Met-Ed - A FirstEnergy Company
- National Fuel Gas
- Penelec - A FirstEnergy Company
- Penn Power - A FirstEnergy Company
- Pennsylvania American Water
- Peoples
- Peoples Gas Company LLC
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Valley Energy
- Wellsboro Electric
- West Penn Power - A FirstEnergy Company
- West View Water Authority

**EWG's Tap Water Database - www.ewg.org/tapwater - 1250 I
Street NW, Suite 1000, 20005 - (202) 667-6982**

Food & Water Watch - foodandwaterwatch.org - (855)-340-8083

Get the Lead Out, Pittsburgh - gettheleadoutpgh.org

**Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County - www.mawc.org -
124 Park and Pool Rd, 15672 - (800) 442-6829 (No customer
assistance programs)**

MONTHLY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Resources

BY LILLIAN
ENGLISH 101

BOOK TITLE
Author's name
Year published
Book cover

Dollar Energy Fund Hardship program -

**dollarenergy.org/needhelp/pennsylvania - P.O. Box 42329, 15203
- (412) 431-2800**

Allegheny Alerts - <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611110/login-servicedesk@alleghenycounty.us>

Allegheny Lead Safe homes via Action Housing - (412) 227-5700

PA American Water - www.amwater.com - 1-800-565-7292

H2O customer assistance program via Dollar Energy Fund

**PA Department of Environmental Protection - www.dep.pa.gov -
400 Waterfront Drive, 15222 -
412-442-4000 (Southwest office)**

H2O customer assistance program via Dollar Energy Fund

**PA Department of Health - www.health.pa.gov - 625 Forster St,
17120 - 717-772-2762**

Lead information line: 1-800-440-LEAD

Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program - www.epa.gov/lead/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-program

Child with Elevated Blood Lead Levels resource guide - paleadfree.org/prt/

Allegheny parent resource kit - paleadfree.org/PRT/PRT_Allegheny.pdf

PA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water - (202)-564-3750

Office of Wastewater Management - (202)-564-0748

PA One Call - call 811

MONTHLY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Resources

PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) - www.puc.pa.gov - 400 North Street, 17120 - 1-800-692-7380

Pennsylvania Environmental Council - pecpa.org - 810 River Avenue, Suite 201, 15212 - (412) 481-9400

PennVest - pennvest.pa.gov

Lead Free PA - www.pennvestleadtestingprogram.com

Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA) - www.pgh2o.com - 1200 Penn Avenue, 15222 - (412) 255-2423

PGH20 Cares customer assistance - (412) 255-2457

Community Lead Response - lead.pgh2o.com - (412) 255-8987

Pittsburgh United (Our Water Campaign) - pittsburghunited.org - 841 California Ave, 15212 - 412-231-8648 - info@pittsburghunited.org

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP) - www.rhls.org/utilities/pulp/ - 118 Locust Street The Louise Brookins Building, 17101 - 717-236-9486 - utilityhotline@pautilitylawproject.org

Tree Pittsburgh - www.treepittsburgh.org - 32 62nd Street, 15201 - (412) 781-TREE (8733) - info@treepittsburgh.org

Upstream Pittsburgh - upstreampgh.org - 321 Pennwood Avenue, 15221 - (412) 371-8779 - info@upstreampgh.org

Community Resources

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy - waterlandlife.org - 1067 Philadelphia Street, Suite 101, 15701 - (724)-471-7202 - water@paconserve.org

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA) - wpjwa.com - 2200 Robinson Boulevard, 15221 - (412) 243-6200 - custserv@wpjwa.com (No customer assistance program)

Women for Healthy Environment - womenforahealthyenvironment.org - 282 St. Clair Avenue Clairton, PA 15025- 412-425-0710
Check out their new **Healthy homes asthma program**

There are so many water filters, which should I buy?

The "best" water filter depends on your goal. If you want to...

Have a pitcher & only remove lead from your water:



Lifestraw Home 7 or 10 cup filter pitcher

7 cup pitcher	~ \$40
10 cup pitcher	~ \$45
Replacement filters (3 pack)	~ \$20 (~\$7 ea)
Change filter after 40 gallons (640 cups!)	

Using this filter for 20 years costs about \$25-30 per year

Have a pitcher & remove lead, chromium, & forever chemicals from your water:



ZeroWater 20 cup Ready-Pour 5-Stage water filter pitcher

20 cup pitcher	~ \$30-35
Replacement filters (4 pack)	~ \$50 (~ \$13 ea)
Change filter after 20 gallons (320 cups!)	

Using this filter for 20 years costs about \$35-40 per year

Faucet mount & remove lead, mercury, VOCs, & trihalomethanes from your water:



PUR Plus Faucet Mount Water Filtration System FM-2000B

Faucet mount	~ \$20
Replacement filters (3 pack)	~ \$30 (~\$10 ea)
Change filter after 100 gallons (1,920 cups!)	

Using this filter for 20 years costs about \$30 per year

Brita does not filter out lead or any other heavy metals

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our FrontLine community organizations
Your contributions to this work is much appreciated



*These reports and the **PSE-generated graphics** within can be used by 412 Justice, as the data used for these graphics were publicly available and not proprietary to OnePA or NDA-obtained. It would be helpful to include language in each report that these graphics were PSE-generated using publicly-available data. PSE is happy to help edit and provide feedback on these reports.*

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



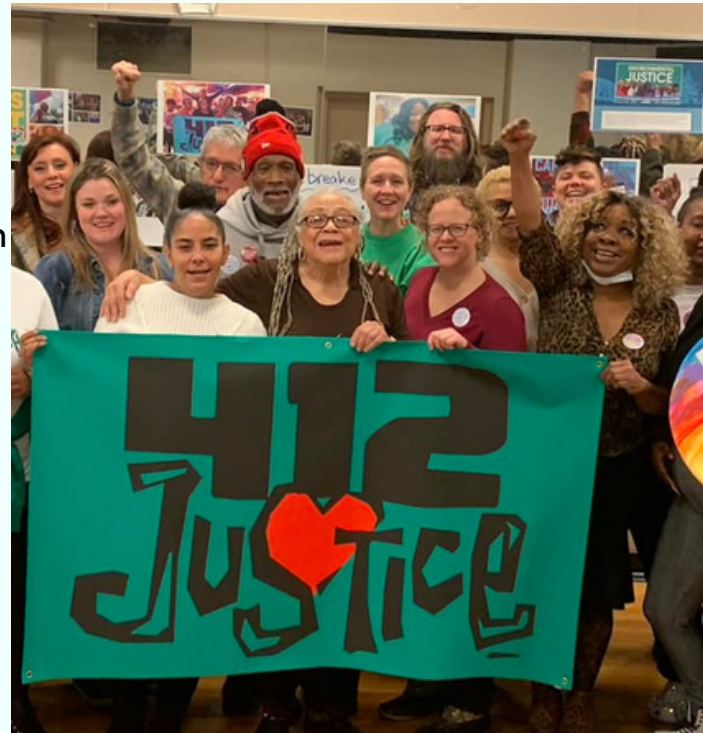
FOR OUR HEALTH, OUR LAND, OUR FUTURE

412 JUSTICE is a multiracial, intergenerational, and multi-issue organization that focuses our efforts around economic, environmental, and education justice. We build deep trust and collaboration with impacted people by creating an inclusive, safe space to learn, ask questions, and use our voice to promote strong, healthy communities and corporate accountability through the redistribution of wealth, power, and resources.

We rise. We build. We win.

Our environmental justice campaigns are focused on ensuring that disinvested communities have access to a clean and healthy environment with resources within their community. This includes but is not limited to reducing air pollution, eliminating lead out of water, transitioning from industrial to green jobs, and increasing access to healthy resources like fresh food and local health facilities.

We fight for Clean Air, Better water quality, Improving our infrastructure, providing quality green jobs, and ensuring that all improvements to our environment are equitable & accesible to all



ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

"EXPOSURE TO LEAD AT LOW LEVELS IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE FOR CHILDREN, AS BLOOD LEVELS OF LEAD IN CHILDREN THAT ARE LOWER THAN WHAT IS OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED A THRESHOLD FOR LEAD POISONING, CAN HARM DEVELOPING BRAINS, CAUSING LEARNING AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS MENTAL HEALTH (DEPRESSION, SCHIZOPHRENIA, AND OTHER PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS) DURING ADULTHOOD."

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE OUR CHILDREN ARE SAFE.

*Nickole Nesby
(Member since 2019)*