



Big Bass Lake Water Association c/o Appletree Resource Group, Inc.  
PO Box 309, Moscow, PA 18444 Phone: (570)846-0432

June 20, 2025

Dear Big Bass Lake WATER SYSTEM Member:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on December 7, 2023, conducted a full inspection of the well houses and components, system service area and information provided by a former customer survey providing homes served and estimated occupancy. This was all inclusive of JJ, GG and FF sections.

As we have reported previously, the PADEP advised BBLWSA that the system would need to convert from a "private water supply system" to a "Community/Public Water Supply System" due to the results of the survey, new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings and their effect on water suppliers in general.

We have maintained the position for several years that BBLWSA does not fall into the Community Water System regulations but like many other private water systems. However, at the end of the day we are subject to the EPA regulations.

During a meeting with PADEP on February 23, 2024, we were formally notified by PADEP that a change in permit is necessary to satisfy the Community Water System requirements. Such change in permit will require physical changes/upgrades to the well houses and related pumping systems, increased testing requirements and raw water pumping tests. At the time, we had approximately 120 days to employ an engineer (which we have done) to assist with the permit process and identify the improvements required in the new permit. As the water system(s) are approaching 40 years of age, we will also have the engineer identify any age-related modifications or upgrades that may be needed or required. Finally, in the interim, we will begin testing more frequently and post test results on the Frontsteps platform and eventually the Enumerate Central/Engage platform once our software transition has concluded. The engineer will also "estimate" the cost of project(s) which will permit Management and the Board to develop and review funding options and timeline for the project(s). (The engineering firm is Kiley Associates, Hawley, PA)

On May 30, 2024, BBLWSA management, licensed operator and hydrologist met with PADEP officials to provide initial findings and plot the next steps (which would include another inspection requested by BBLWSA) to review initial findings. At this meeting, BBLWSA was informed that despite the fact that the actual new permit has not been submitted, BBLWSA would need to begin all testing and reporting requirements beginning with June 2024. *(Due to COVID, the PADEP offices were not open and there was no further communication on this matter until 2023).*

As we reported in 2024, several violations have been issued to the system which occurred when we were contesting the mandated transition from a private to a public system. The mandated transition resulted in many changes to DEP guidelines, testing requirements (and schedules), and to a degree EPA guidelines. The violations are for "failure to test" and do not represent actual test result failures.

What are we doing to meet the reclassification requirements and submit a new permit?

1. We have contracted with a professional hydrologist to evaluate our current three wells to determine

- a. If the wells (as originally drilled) meet today's standards (records that have been reviewed appear to indicate they do).
- b. Determine if there is a perimeter zone requirement around each well that serves as a protection area from any source of pollutants). This is still under review as we have provided our initial results to PADEP for review. If there is a perimeter zone issue, we will request a waiver.
- c. The well system(s) are presently not designed for taking "raw" water samples. Meaning, our water tests are taken from the field (and homes) after the water has been introduced into the system. Under the new reclassification this is not permitted as it could result in inaccurate results (which it has a few times in the past but follow up tests were negative). Therefore, the well house(s) and plumbing would need to be modified to be able to take the raw water samples. *Our engineer is in the process of identifying those costs and whether we can obtain any grant funds to subsidize the costs.*

2. We are conducting a title search of all adjacent properties to the well houses to determine that if they are in the protective zone can we obtain a deed amendment from the owner prohibiting the use of any contaminants within the zoned area that might be on their property.

3. We are developing a plan to meet the new requirements, funding plan and submit a new Community public water system permit to the PADEP for review and approval. This process will become part of a Consent Plan which will be executed by both PADEP and BBLSWA.

What happens next?

We are required to provide to you a Consumer Confidence Report (which is a requirement of a community public water system). The report provides detail on testing (those that we have done and those that we have not) for 2025. You will receive these reports every year going forward. Any testing requirements not conducted will be done in the next three months and the results provided to all consumers. The results will be reported separately for each well.

Are there other current private water systems experiencing the same reclassification requirement?

Yes, any previous private water system that cannot meet the hook up and population requirements to remain a private system will be reclassified. We are aware of several systems serving private communities such as Big Bass Lake that are dealing with this issue. *(Note: We have had a special utility Attorney review the EPA/PADEP mandates and their opinion is that there are no grounds to contest.)*

*Further Questions:*

Questions regarding the above may be submitted "in writing". Responses to such questions will be provided in the next quarterly update report.

Thank you,

Big Bass Lake Water and Sewer Management


 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

**2025** **ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**PWSID #: 2640905** **NAME: Big Bass Lake Water Association**

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.)

### **WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact James Ott, of Appletree Resource Group, Inc. AAMC at (570)846-0432 ext 700. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held annually or as requested by the membership.

### **SOURCE(S) OF WATER:**

Our water source(s) is/are: (Name-Type-Location)

We have three wells located in the development. Each well serves a different distribution system. Sections GG and HH are one well, JJ is on another well and FF is on its own well.

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to [insert potential Sources of Contamination listed in your Source Water Assessment]. Overall, our source(s) has/have [little, moderate, high] risk of significant contamination. Complete reports were distributed to municipalities and water suppliers.

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. EPA/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* (800-426-4791).

### **Monitoring Your Water:**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

**DEFINITIONS:**

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

*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.

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

*Level 1 Assessment* – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

*Level 2 Assessment* – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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

*Mrem/year* = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

*pCi/L* = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

*ppb* = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

*ppm* = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

*ppq* = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

*ppt* = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

| <b>Chemical Contaminants</b> |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|------------------------------|------------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Contaminant                  | MCL in CCR Units | MCLG | Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date          | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination             |
| Dalapon                      | 0.2              | 0.2  | 0.00201        | 0.00171 - 0.00201   | ppm   | 09/28/25<br>09/30/25 | N             | Runoff of herbicide used on grasses. |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |
|                              |                  |      |                |                     |       |                      |               |                                      |

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is four ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

| <b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b> |                               |                       |                     |       |              |               |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|
| Contaminant                              | Minimum Disinfectant Residual | Lowest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date  | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination                 |
| Free Chlorine                            | 0.200                         | 1.55                  | 1.55-2.9            | ppm   | Monthly 2025 | Y             | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| <b>Lead and Copper</b> |                   |      |                       |                               |       |                                    |               |                                  |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Contaminant            | Action Level (AL) | MCLG | 90th Percentile Value | Range of tap sampling results | Units | # of Sites Above AL of Total Sites | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination         |
| Lead                   | 15                | 0    | 0.003                 | <0.0010 - 0.0113              | ppb   | 1                                  | Y             | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper                 | 1.3               | 1.3  | 0.018                 | <0 - 0.322                    | ppm   | 0                                  | Y             | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

| <b>Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                        |      |                                                                                                               |               |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Contaminants                                                                               | TT                                                                                                                                                                     | MCLG | Assessments/Corrective Actions                                                                                | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination              |
| Total Coliform Bacteria                                                                    | Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement | N/A  | See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section | Y             | Naturally present in the environment. |

| <b>Microbial (related to <i>E. coli</i>)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |             |                                                                                                      |                      |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Contaminants</b>                          | <b>MCL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>Positive Sample(s)</b>                                                                            | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Sources of Contamination</b> |
| <i>E. coli</i>                               | Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> . | 0           | 0                                                                                                    | N                    | Human and animal fecal waste.   |
| <b>Contaminants</b>                          | <b>TT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>Assessments/ Corrective Actions</b>                                                               | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Sources of Contamination</b> |
| <i>E. coli</i>                               | Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement                                                                                                       | N/A         | See description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section | N                    | Human and animal fecal waste.   |

| <b>Raw Source Water Microbial</b> |             |                                    |              |                      |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Contaminants</b>               | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>Total # of Positive Samples</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Sources of Contamination</b> |
| <i>E. coli</i>                    | 0           | 0                                  | 2025         | N                    | Human and animal fecal waste.   |

#### **DETECTED CONTAMINANTS HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

We failed to meet to meet the required quarterly testing window during the year for lead and copper. Lead was detected in one home tested in GG and was determined to be an isolated issue inside the home. Moving forward we are testing on time and have issued the appropriate notices for 2025.

Dalapon is a systemic herbicide primarily used to control grasses and in select agricultural settings for crops. Dalapon was only detected during our September 2025 testing at a below action level and is likely due to runoff from herbicide use in the community.

As was mentioned in last year's CCR, we are classified as a chlorinated system under the new regulations and were to test for chlorination in all three wells. All wells are now chlorinated and the violation for 2025 was related to that issue.

We failed to properly collect or analyze RCTR routine samples for total coliform a few occasions during the year resulting in violations for each instance.

**OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

We failed to take several tests on time as sampling was done on the last day of the month or within the last week of the testing period and reporting was late to DEP. Some testing windows were missed completely for quarterly testing and testing done in the following period was compliant. We have since issued public notices and have obtained compliance on all 2025 missed testing. There are outstanding violations from prior years that require public notices to be resolved. We are working with DEP and our licensed operator Joe Bonamico of Pocono Waterworks Company to resolve any current and previous outstanding violations.

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**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

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:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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* (800-426-4791).

**INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD**

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