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Sample Number – Code that is used to identify the particular sample. See additional information below:

HW## – Identifies the sample location and indicates that it was collected at well head or closest point to the well head

F – Indicates that the sample was filtered following collection. The purpose of filtering the sample is to remove any particulates in order to find what metals are actually dissolved in the water sample.

Z – Identifies a duplicate sample. Duplicate samples are collected for every ten samples collected to test the reproducibility of sampling and analytical procedures.

P – Indicates that the sample was collected at the kitchen tap. In some cases this may be following any treatment that the residence may have.

A/B – Designates which residence the sample was collected for sample locations with multiple residences using the same water source (may be a well or a spring).

RO – Indicated that the sample was collected from a residence containing a reverse osmosis treatment system.

N – Designates that the sample was collected from the new well for locations with multiple wells.

Analyte – General term for a substance in the sample. The lab does testing to find specific analytes, or substance in the water sample. The report lists each analyte that the lab tested for and what amounts were found.

Result and Units – identifies the actual result for the particular analyte and the measurement used for the particular type of sample. The results may include the following units for the various water sample analyses:

µg /L – Micrograms per liter (abbreviated as µg /L) measurements of the mass of the substance per liter of water. Drinking water results are usually reported in µg /L.

mg/L – Milligrams per liter (abbreviated as mg/L) measurements of the mass of the substance per liter of water.

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cfu/100 ml – Total Coliform Bacteria results are reported as colony forming units (cfu) per milliliters of water. Coliform bacteria is not a health threat in itself; it is used to indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

cfu/ml – Heterotrophic Plate Count Bacteria (HPC) are reported as colony forming units (cfu) per milliliter of water. HPC has no health effects; it is an analytic method used to measure the variety of bacteria that are common in water. The lower the concentration of bacteria in drinking water, the better maintained the water system is.

Absent or Present – Fecal Coliform Bacteria are reported as either being Absent or Present. Fecal Coliform Bacteria are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Disease-causing microbes (pathogens) in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. These pathogens may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Validation Result Qualifiers - EPA performs a quality check on the lab results. After this quality check, EPA may mark the measurement of certain analytes with a qualifier to give additional information about the measurement. This information can apply to **1)** how certain EPA is that the lab detected the analyte and **2)** how certain EPA is of the measurement of the analyte once detected. If there is no qualifier by the result, the detection and measurement of the analyte are certain.

U – Indicates that the analyte was not detected. If there is a number next to the U, this number is the amount of analyte that would have to be present to be detected by the lab given the particular method and/or instrumentation.

J – This means that the analyte was detected, but the value of the result is an estimate.

UJ - The U before the J means that the analyte was not detected in the sample, but this result may be inaccurate. Some analyte may be present.

R – Indicates that the particular result was considered unreliable and, therefore, the result was rejected.

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Trigger Level – established for this project, the trigger levels are based on risk-based screening levels and/or standards for public water supplies. A yellow highlighted result represents an analytical result greater than the established trigger level. Results exceeding a trigger level are referred to an EPA toxicologist for further review.

EPA Primary MCLs – the primary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are legally enforceable standards established under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in public drinking water systems. The MCL is the amount of an analyte (substance) that can be present in a water sample that the government considers acceptable to drink. EPA considers the MCLs when evaluating results from residential drinking water wells.

EPA Secondary MCLs - secondary MCLs are non-enforceable standards regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to public water systems, but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.

DEP MCLs (Primary and Secondary) – Chapter 109, Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Regulations, defines MCL as the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to a user of a public water system, and includes the primary and secondary MCLs established under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and MCLs adopted under the act.