

Luke Paper Company Water System 2008 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Drinking Water Quality

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. We conducted more than 6,000 tests for over 80 contaminants. The Luke Paper Company Water System vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The town of Luke and the employees of the Luke Paper Company are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from the North Branch of the Potomac River. Our treatment facilities provide roughly 127.75 million gallons of clean drinking water every year.

Source water assessment and its availability

For information about Maryland's Source Water Assessment Program, please contact MDE at 410-537-3714

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 runoff, 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; and 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions concerning your drinking water quality or would like to have your water tested, call the Luke Paper Company Public relations Department at 301-359-3311, Ext. 3405. Also, please call us for information on individual and group tours.

For more information about this report or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Patsy Koontz, Public Relations Director, at 301-359-3311, Ext. 3405.

How will I know if there's a problem with my water?

If the amount of contaminant exceeds a predetermined safe level in your drinking water (MCL, Action Level, etc.), we will notify you via newspapers, radio, TV and other means within 24 hours. With the notification, you will be instructed on what appropriate actions you can take to protect your family's health.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG</u> | <u>MCL,</u> | <u>Your</u> | <u>Range</u> | | <u>Sample</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| | <u>or</u> | <u>TT, or</u> | | <u>Water</u> | <u>Low</u> | | | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.036 | NA | | 2008 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.76 | NA | | 2008 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |

| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG</u> | <u>AL</u> | <u>Your</u> | <u>Sample</u> | <u># Samples</u> | <u>Exceeds</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| | | | <u>Water</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Exceeding AL</u> | <u>AL</u> | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.092 | 2008 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 8.6 | 2008 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>Term</u> | <u>Definition</u> |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

“If present, elevated levels of 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. Luke Paper Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

Important Drinking Water Definitions

| <u>Term</u> | <u>Definition</u> |
|--------------------------|---|
| MCLG | MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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. |
| MCL | MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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. |
| MRDL | MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

For more information please contact:

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