Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For 2008
Town of Westernport
PWSID # 0010033

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The Town of Westernport is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect the valuable water resources that we have available to our community. The Town of Westernport is committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is the Savage River, which is a surface supply.

We have a source water assessment plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available at the Allegany County Public Library or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report is provided to you in compliance with federal and state regulations and reflects our finished water quality and what it means.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact George Shingler, Superintendent of Water, at our water filtration plant at (301) 359-9281. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled council meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Westernport City Building located at 107 Washington Street, Westernport, Maryland 21562.

The Town of Westernport routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity Range Average	N	.04 –.3 0.04	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2006)	N	0.013	ppm	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (distribution) (2006)	N	0.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.8	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	0.035	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	0.0025	ppm	N/A	100	Erosion of Natural Deposits or leaching.
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) (avg.) (Total trihalomethanes)	N	19.04	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Distribution) (avg.) (Haloacetic Acids)	N	7.50	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	N	31	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chloroform	N	7.2	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	N	2.4	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
Dibromochloromethane Plant Id. 02	N	0.5	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water Chlorination

Note: Test results are for year 2008 unless otherwise noted. All tests are not required annually.

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. The Town of Westernport is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When you water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on 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.

As can be seen by results listed in the above tables, lead, which is tested for every 3 years in accordance with Federal and State regulations, has not been detected in our most recent collected samples.

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All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office if you have questions.

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