Consumer Confidence Report for CECO Utilities

Annual Report for 2008

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water while keeping cost as low as possible. Our water comes from groundwater out of the Port Deposit Gneiss.

I'm pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mike Davitt at 410-398-5187.** We want you, our valued customers and neighbors, to be informed about your water utility.

The water is routinely monitored for constituents that may be found in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents 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:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) 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 - (mandatory language) 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

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCL	MCL Goal	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0	Presence of bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0		Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform And *E. Coli*	N	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform	0		Human and animal fecal waste

Radioactive Contaminants

Beta/photon emitters	N	5 2007	4	0	Mrem/yr	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	N	3 2007	15	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	0.7 in 2007	5	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants

Asbestos	N	Waived	7	7	MFL	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	0.15 in 2006	2	2	ppb	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper		0.028 in 2008	AL=1.3	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Cyanide	N	Waived	200	200	ppb	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride	N	0.13 in 2006	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	0 in 2008	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Less than 1.0 2008	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	83.5	0	100	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Last tested by MDE in 2007 only detects listed

Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	N	0.9	0	6	ppb	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Methoxychlor	N	0.9	40	40	ppb	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Dinoseb	N	0.28	7	7	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Last tested by MDE 2008 only detects listed

Chloroform	N	1.1	0	100	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochlormethane	N	1.6	0	100	ppb	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Bromodichloromethane	N	1.8	0	100	ppb	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene	N	0.7	700	700	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Toluene	N	1.1	0	100	ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories
Xylenes	N	3.7	1000	1000	ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Non-Regulated Contaminants

Sodium	N	40 in 2006	NA	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring
Iron	N	.26		.3	ppm	Naturally occurring

Microbiological Contaminants:

(1) Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

(2) Fecal coliform/E.Coli. Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Radioactive Contaminants:

(4) Beta/photon emitters. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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(5) Alpha emitters. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
(6) Combined Radium 226/228. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Inorganic Contaminants:

(8) Arsenic. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
(9) Asbestos. Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.
(10) Barium. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
(14) Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
(15) Cyanide. Some people who drink water containing cyanide well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience nerve damage or problems with their thyroid.
(16) Fluoride. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.
(17) Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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. CECO Utilities 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 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.

(19) Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants:

(33) Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. Some people who drink water containing di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate in excess of the MCL over many years may have problems with their liver, or experience reproductive difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
(35) Dinoseb. Some people who drink water containing dinoseb well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience reproductive difficulties.
(48) Methoxychlor. Some people who drink water containing methoxychlor in excess of the MCL over many years could experience reproductive difficulties.

Volatile Organic Contaminants:

(73) TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
(74) Toluene. Some people who drink water containing toluene well in excess of the MCL over many years could have problems with their nervous system, kidneys, or liver.
(76) Xylenes. Some people who drink water containing xylenes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience damage to their nervous system.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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 constituents, 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

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.

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).

CECO Utilities works very hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have any questions.

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