Quality on Tap Report 2008
Town of Indian Head
June, 2009
PWSID # 0080020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is 4 wells which draw from the Patapsco Aquifer.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

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 Town Hall at (301) 743-5511. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings.

The Town of Indian Head 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) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

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

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

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 - 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						
Location	**Contaminant**	**Level Detected**	**Unit Measurement**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Well 2	Fluoride	.5	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Sodium	81	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Barium	.01	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha	2	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Beta	4	pCi/L	0		Decay of natural deposits
	Bromoform	4	ppb			
	Bromodichloromethane	2.8	ppb			
	Dibromochloromethane	4.3	ppb			Erosion of natural deposits
	Chloroform	1.5	ppb			
Well 3	Fluoride	1.4	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Sodium	151	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Barium	.01	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha	10	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Beta	4	pCi/L	0		Decay of natural deposits
	Bromoform	7.4	ppb			
	Dibromochloromethane	.9	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Well 4	Fluoride	.83	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Sodium	56	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha	6	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Well 5	Fluoride	.61	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Sodium	100	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Barium	.014	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha	15	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha (Short Term)	16	pCi/L			
	Gross Beta	3	pCi/L			Decay of natural deposits
	Gross Beta (Short Term)	4	pCi/L			
Distribution System	Copper	.167	ppm	1.3	1.3	
	Total Trihalomethanes	12.69	ppb			Disinfection byproduct
	Haloacetic Acids	6.87	ppb			Disinfection byproduct

We constantly monitor the water supply for various contaminants. We have detected radon in the finished water supply in 4 out of 4 samples tested. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects.

"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. [Name of utility] 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."

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 contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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.

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.

We, at the Town of Indian Head, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please call our office at 301-743-5511 if you have questions.