2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
PWSID 0140006
Town of Rock Hall
June 8, 2009

We're 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. 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 ground water source is 3 wells which draw from the Magothy Aquifer. The wells range in depth from 308 to 362 feet. These wells are located within the confines of the treatment plant.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available at the Kent County Public Library located in Chestertown in the 400 block of High Street, or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

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 Timmy Edwards at the water plant at (410) 639-7610 or Town Hall at (410) 639-7611. 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 Utility Board meetings held on the first Monday of each month at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Town Hall at 7:30 pm. and are also available to answer your questions.

The Town of Rock Hall 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.

Action Level - 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.

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TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution)	N	0.028	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride Range Average	N	 0.8-1.1 1.0	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (2006)	N	0.005	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (2006)	N	2.0	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Arsenic (2006)	N	2.0	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Antimony (2006)	N	2.0	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Beryllium (2006)	N	1.0	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (2006)	N	2.0	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (2006)	N	5.0	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Thallium	N	< 2.0	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Mercury (inorganic) (2006)	N	0.2	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	< 0.1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	N	28.72	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 Haloacetic Acid (Distribution)	N	4.57	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium (2006)	N	27.0	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickle (2006)	N	0.002	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

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

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.

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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. Town of Rock Hall 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.

NOTE: As can be seen by results listed in the above tables, lead, which is tested for triennial (every 3 years) in accordance with Federal and State regulations in Rock Hall's distribution system, was not detected in samples collected in 2008.

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.

Please call our office if you have questions.

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