Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008
Town of Snow Hill
April 6, 2009
PWSID 0230007

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alquien que lo entienda bien.

Is my water safe?

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.

I'm also pleased to report that our drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water 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.

Where does my water come from?

Our water source is the Manokin Aquifer which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The depths of our 3 wells are approximately 365 feet. The earth between the surface and this underground aquifer helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into our water distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. You may read this source water assessment by contacting the Town Hall, The County Health Department or your local County Library.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Frank Daniels at (410) 632-1144. 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 Mayor and Council meetings. Please call (410) 632-2080 to confirm actual dates and times.

Why are contaminants in my drinking water?

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.

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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).

Additional Information for Lead

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 Snow Hill 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

NOTE: As can be seen by results listed in the following tables, lead, which is tested for on a triennial basis (every 3 years) in Snow Hill in accordance with Federal and State regulations, has not been detected in collected samples. Our most recent testing was in 2008.

The Town of Snow Hill 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.

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.

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

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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Water Quality Data Table

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha/photon emitters Well 1 Well 2 (2007) Well 3	 N N N	 < 1 2 < 1	pCi/1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta emitters Well 1 Well 2 Well 3	 N N N	 7 6 ND	pCi/1	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium Well 1 Well 2 (2007) Well 3	 N N N	 0.005 ND 0.005	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Distribution) Lead (Distribution)	N N	0.037 0.000	ppm ppb	AL=1.3 AL=15	AL=1.3 AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (Distribution) Range Average	N	 .10 - 2.2 0.60	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Well 1 Well 2 Well 3	 N N N	 < 1.0 < 1.0 <1.0	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Aldicarb Sulfoxide Well 3 (2004) Well 1 & 2 (2004)	 N N	 4.0 ND	ppb	N/A	N/A	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate Well 1 Well 2 (2004) Well 3 (2004)	 N N N	 ND 5.1 1.5	ppb	400	400	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
3- Hydroxycarbofuran Well 1 & 3 Well 2 (2004)	 N N	 ND 5.0	ppb	40	40	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	N	73.44	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (Distribution)	N	13.0	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Additional test results for contaminants which were detected but are not currently regulated are listed in the following table.

Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium Well 1 Well 2 (2007) Well 3	 N N N	 110 94 140	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Sufate Well 2 (2007) Well 1 & 3	 N N	 2.0 ND	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Well 1 – Ross Street; Well 2 – Washington Street; Well 3 – Coulbourne Lane
Note: Test results are for 2008 unless otherwise noted; these are the most recent available results.

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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.

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.

Town Of Snow Hill Water Department – 410-632-1144

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