Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Town of Secretary
June , 2010
PWSID 0090007

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 water source is a ground source which consists of four (4) deep wells. Two of these wells draw from the confined Piney Point Formation and our two new wells draw from the Federalsburg formation.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

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 from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Dorchester County Public Library.

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 Yvonne Pritchett at Town Hall, 410-943-3113. 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 town meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Secretary's Town Hall.

The Town of Secretary 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, 2009. 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.

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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TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters	N	6.3	pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	N	1.2	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (226 & 228)	N	< 1.0	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Arsenic (average) (range)	N	< 6.5 < 3 - 17	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Copper (2007)	N	0.229	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (average)	N	0.42	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (2007)	N	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	2.3	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	5.2	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	< 1.0	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (distribution) [Total trihalomethanes] (2008)	N	6.99	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (distribution) (2008)	N	0	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	N	16.4	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Test results are for year 2009 or as indicated; not all contaminants are required to be tested for annually.These are our most recent results.

Our water system violated a drinking water standard for Arsenic during 2009. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. This violation occurred for the first quarter of the year, which was January 1st thru March 31st when the test result was 17 ppb. At that time we were in the process of blending our new wells with the older ones in order to achieve a level below the MCL of 10ppb. Our system was returned to compliance after test results for the 2nd quarter (April thru June) was less than 3 ppb. 3rd and 4th quarter results were also less than 3ppb, well under the current MCL of 10 ppb.

Note: 2 new wells have been drilled and tested. These new wells have been drilled into The Federalsburg Aquifer, which has been shown through testing to be free or very low in arsenic contamination. These were placed into service during 2009. These wells are currently being blended with our older wells which has produced water with an arsenic level below the MCL of 10 ppb. We are continuing to test for arsenic on a quarterly basis as required by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we also received a reporting violation for January 1st thru January 31st when routine Bacti test results for that month were not received by MDE by the required due date, which is no later than the 10th day of the month following the compliance period. This did not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply as test results were negative for the presence of bacteria.

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.

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 Secretary 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 Secretary's distribution system, was not detected in our most recently collected samples.

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 about this report.

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