Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
The Town of Betterton

PWSID 0140001

May 12, 2010

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 to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is two wells which draw from the Magothy Aquifer.

We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

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 or from Maryland Department of the Environment.

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 Kip Matthews at 410-348-5522. 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. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Betterton Town Hall which is located on 3rd Ave.

The Town of Betterton 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.

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.

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
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2007)	N	0.291	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Barium	N	0.053	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (Distribution) (2007)	N	12.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	3.5	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	< 2.0	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes	N	1.28	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5s [Haloacetic acids] (Distribution)	N	1.28	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters (2008)	N	9	pCi/1	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (2008)	N	5	pCi/1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	N	0.5	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	N	29.0	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosin of natural deposits

Note: Test results are for year 2009 unless noted otherwise; testing for all contaminants is 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.

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 Betterton 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.

Our system did receive a reporting violation for the month of December, 2009 for failure to have our bacti results for that month submitted by the due date of no later than January 10, 2010. Our system was returned to compliance after MDE received these results which were negative for the presence of bacteria as they always have been. Our system is required to complete one test each month.

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.