St. Mary's College 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 018-0013

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2013. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of St. Mary's College.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely complete Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact *Jay Janney at 410-729-8350, e-mail jjann@menv.com.*

For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please contact Mr. Derek Thornton the Assistant VP for Campus Operations for *St. Mary's College at 240-895-4287.*

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The St. Mary's College water works consists of three drilled wells in the Aquia formation. After the water is pumped from the wells it is treated with a disinfectant to protect against microbial contamination. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call *Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350.*

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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).*

Definitions:

- *Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - 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.
- *Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - 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.
- *Action Level* - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
- *Treatment Technique (TT)* - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- *Turbidity* - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.
- *pCi/l* - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- *ppb* - parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- *ppm* - parts per million or milligrams per liter

Special points of interest:

The water at St. Mary's College is tested for over 120 different compounds.

The St. Mary's College Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements.

Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the *Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*

Lead Prevention:

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. St. Mary's College 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.

St. Mary's College Treated Water Quality Report 2013

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - St. Marys College, Maryland			
Wells 1 - St. Marys College, Maryland - Plant I.D. 01			
Gross Alpha (2007 Testing)	15 pCi/l	3 pCi/l	15 pCi/l
Please see page 4 of CCR for more details on Gross Alpha Emitters			
Fluoride (2013 Testing)	4000 ppb	594 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Arsenic (2013 Testing)	10 ppb	6.1 ppb	10 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Well 3- St. Marys College, Maryland - Plant I.D. 02 (Offline in 2010)			
Nitrate (2009 Testing)	10 ppm	1.5 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion			
Well 5 - St. Marys College, Maryland - Library - Plant I.D. 03			
Chromium (2011 Testing)	100 ppb	15 ppb	100 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Fluoride (2011 Testing)	4000 ppb	690 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Arsenic (2011 Testing)	10 ppb	4.5 ppb	10 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Well 6 - St. Marys City, Maryland - Plant I.D. 04			
Gross Alpha (2007 Testing)	15 pCi/l	1 pCi/l	15 pCi/l
Please see page 4 of CCR for more details on Gross Alpha Emitters			
Fluoride (2013 Testing)	4000 ppb	682 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Arsenic (2013 Testing)	10 ppb	5.7 ppb	10 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			

Regulated at the Consumer's Tap	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2011 Testing)	1300 ppb	138 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2011 Testing)	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

The above table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2013 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2013. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Radon: We constantly monitor the water supply for various constituents. We have detected radon in the water supply on a sample collected September 27, 2007. At this time, there is no Federal Regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects. The radon result of the September 2007 sample was 180 pCi/l (pCi/l = picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity). For additional information call the EPA radon hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

Arsenic Information:

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Currently, the arsenic level is below the MCL of 10 ppb.

Important information Regarding Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 3 pCi/L which is below the 15 pCi/L MCL.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Jay Janney at 410-729-8350 or email your request to jjann@menv.com.

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