

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

## **Cecilton, Maryland Water System PWSID#007-0004**

May 13, 2016

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water 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.

The source of our drinking water is two wells drilled into the local aquifer, which lies about 100 feet below the earth's surface. An aquifer is an underground body of water, which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The 100 feet of earth between surface sources and this aquifer helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into your water distribution system.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets Federal and State requirements. The following report is provided in compliance with Federal regulations and will be provided annually each year. This report outlines the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning the water utility, please contact the Town Administrator at (410) 275-2692. We want our valued customers to be informed about the water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

The Cecilton water department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables on the following pages show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. 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.

### **Definitions**

In this report 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 (u/l)* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*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 treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*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.

**Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks for safety. MCGL allows for margin of safety.
- MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.
- AL: Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ALG: Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbe contaminants.
- MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbe contaminants.

**Units of Measurement & Conversions:**

- NA: Not applicable pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

## ***Water Quality Data Table***

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected in your water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be up to five years old.

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# sites over AL	Units	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	12/31/2014	1.3	1.3	1.85	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems

Contaminant (units)	Collection Date	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:</b>								
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	08/11/2014	No goal for the total	80	0.5	0.5	0.5	No	Byproduct of chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)		MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.5	0	0.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>								
Nitrate (ppm)		10	10	8	8	8.54	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion

