

# *Mount St. Mary's University*

## *2015 Drinking Water*

### *Quality Report*



## Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2015. 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, began operating the water treatment facility in June 2014 and prepared this report on behalf of the Mount St. Mary's University.

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 concerning your water utility, please contact **Tood Otis, Director of Capital Projects & Energy Management at 240-344-4765, e-mail: otis@msmary.edu**. Copies of this report will not be mailed to consumers but are available upon request from your utility.

### For More Information:

Although Mount Saint Mary's Board of Directors meets on a quarterly basis, the meetings are not open to the public. If you have concerns, questions or suggestions that need the Board's attention, please contact James Coons. Your inquiries will receive prompt attention.

**T**he Mount St. Mary's University water works consists of three drilled wells. Before the water enters the distribution network chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into a storage tank. 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**.

**S**ome 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)**.

### Inside This Issue:

Definitions	2
Special Points of Interest	2
Gross Alpha Emitters	2
Water Quality Report	3
Lead Prevention	4
Sources of Drinking Water	4

# Mount St. Mary's University Treated Water Quality Report 2015

## 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 the Mount St. Mary's University is tested for over 120 different compounds. **The Mount St. Mary's University's 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)**

## Important information Regarding Gross Alpha Emitters:

Mount St. Mary's University's water system was placed on quarterly monitoring for Gross Alpha beginning in October 2014. Compliance with the MCL will be determined based on a annual rolling average of quarterly results. 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 12.4 pCi/L.

**T**he table on page 3 lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2015 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, 2015. 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.

# Mount St. Mary's University Treated Water Quality Report 2015

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant Wells 3 and 5</b>			
Nitrate	10 ppm	0.87 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use			
Barium (2013 Testing)	2000 ppb	590 ppb	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 310 to 590 ppb)			
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant Wells 6</b>			
Nitrate	10 ppm	2.3 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use			
Fluoride (2013 Testing)	4.0 ppm	0.22 ppm	4.0 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive which promotes strong teeth (range from 0.14 to 0.22 ppm)			
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Point of Entry</b>			
Arsenic	10 ppb	9 ppb *	10 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 5.3 to 17.9 ppm)			
* Highest level detected is based on an annual rolling average comprised of data from 2014 & 2015			
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2015 Testing)	5 pCi/l	2.3 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 0.0 to 2.3 )			
Uranium (2015 Testing)	30 ug/l	13.4 ug/l	0 ug/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 12.1 to 13.4)			
Gross Alpha (2015 Testing)	15 pCi/l*	12.4 pCi/l*	0.0 pCi/l*
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 1.92 to 12.4)			
* Please read page 4 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters			
Gross Beta - (2015 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	4.7 pCi/l**	0.0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits (range from 0.0 to 4.7)			
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles			
** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>			
Chlorine	4 ppm	1.08 ppm *	n/a
Water Additive used to control microbes. *Annual Average (range from 0.59 to 1.6 )			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2015 Testing)	80 ppb	22.35 ppb	n/a
(range from 8.35 to 22.35 )			
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2015 Testing)	60 ppb	6.04 ppb	n/a
(range from 0.00 to 6.04 )			
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination (2015 Testing)			
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>			
	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2015 Testing)	1300 ppb	202 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2015 Testing)	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

## 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.*

## Important information about Arsenic

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the arsenic levels are being monitored quarterly. We are constantly evaluating alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.

## 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. The Mount St. Mary's University 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>.*

## Monitoring Violation (late collection of samples)

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) operates and monitors the Distribution System for the Mount St Mary's University. In May of each year the system is required to monitor the water for TTHM/HAA5's. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2015, the system did not complete testing for TTHM/HAA5's until September and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time between May and September. The September results were below the MCLs and are listed in the table of results.

