

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Thurmont Water System

PWSID #010-0023

2016

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town's drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing, that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, have 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Definitions of Abbreviations and Terms used in this report:

MCLG- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.

MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.

TT - Treatment Technique

NTU- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.

LRAA - Locational Running Annual Average

PPM- Parts per Million, One part substance to one million parts water, equivalent to milligrams per liter.

PPB- Parts per Billion, One part substance to one billion parts water, equivalent to micrograms per liter.

pCi/L- Picocuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.

NA-Not Applicable

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

AL - Action Level, The Concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.



Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	10/15/2014	0.012	0.0083 - 0.012	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	10/15/2014	0.16	0.14 - 0.16	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury	10/15/2014	0.17	0 - 0.17	2	2	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)		4	2.1 - 3.6	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228		0.3	0.3 - 0.3	0	5	pci/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium		3.1	3.1 - 3.1	0	15	pci/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatiles Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
1,2-Dichloroethane		3.38	0 - 3.38	0	5	ppb	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Trichloroethylene		1	0 - 0.82	0	5	ppb	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination				
Highest single measurement	1.0 NTU	0.62 NTU	N	Soil runoff.				
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff.				
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products	Collection Date	Highest LRAA	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine		1	0 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDLG = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)		1	0 - 1.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)		9	0 - 14.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	12/31/2015	1.3	1.3	0.46	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	12/31/2015	0	15	-5	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Information about lead in Drinking Water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your homes plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your homes water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for thirty seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791

NOTE: No lead was detected in 2015.

We at the Town of Thurmont Water Department work around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious of resources, we ask you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water sources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 615 E. Main Street.

