Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
The Town of Walkersville, Maryland

www.walkersvillemd.gov PWSID #0100025

June 1, 2016

We are pleased to present the 2015 Annual Drinking Water Report. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of our drinking water is groundwater pumped from three wells located in a highly productive limestone aquifer. In a limestone aquifer, water is stored within large voids or cavities in the limestone. Springs and sinkholes are typically found within limestone aquifer areas. Sinkholes allow for surface water to mix readily with groundwater. Therefore, the state has categorized our water system as groundwater under the influence of surface water. Our level of treatment is equal to that of a system with a surface water source.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Robert F. DePaola, our Water Superintendent and Public Works Director at 301-845-4500. 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 Town Meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Town Hall at 21 W. Frederick Street.

The Town of Walkersville routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 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. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottles water which must provide the same protection for public health.

DEFINITIONS

ND (Non-Detects) –Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

ppm (Parts per million) or mgl (Milligrams per liter) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

ppb (Parts per billion) or Micrograms per liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.

pCi/l (picocuries per liter)- A measure of radioactivity.

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

TT (Treatment Technique)– A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) – The "Maximum Allowed" 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) – The "Goal" 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.

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 microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)- A measure of the clarity of drinking water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants (monitored monthly)				
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform and *E.coli*	0	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or *E. coli* positive	Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity *	.031 - .261	0	.5 NTU	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants (monitored every 3 years; next due-2018)				
Fluoride	.4 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	0.0337 ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)*** (monitored quarterly)	0.2 – 8.7 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
8. Arsenic ****	<.5ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards: runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Lead and Copper				
Lead **	5 ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
. Copper	.19 ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Radioactive Contaminants				
Beta/photon emitters	4.25 pCiL	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium	0.15 pCiL	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (excluding radon & uranium)	0.71 pCiL	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated Contaminants				
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	0 – 6.54ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)	0-43ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene	0.77 ppb	0	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Chlorine	0-1.3 ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

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* Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

** Lead. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Lead testing was performed in a selected subdivision. 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 home's plumbing. 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 Walkersville 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.

*** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. However, our treatment plant has a nitrate removal system. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

****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.

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.

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MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep our water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption. Our Water Department staff consists of five licensed operators. They regularly attend training in an effort to keep up-to-date with the latest in water treatment techniques to provide you with the best quality water possible. The provision of quality water is an on-going effort for the Town of Walkersville and its staff, and one we are continuously trying to improve upon.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Thank you for understanding.

We at the Town of Walkersville work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. To this end, we have adopted a Wellhead Protection Ordinance and a Sinkhole Ordinance that will protect the town's water supply. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please call our office if you have questions.

Town Hall – 21 W. Frederick St
Phone – 301-845-4500
Town Shop – located behind Walkersville Volunteer Fire Co. Phone – 301-845-4811
After-hours Water Emergency – 301-631-8504 (pager)

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