CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
McHenry Water System
PWSID: 1111096
301-334-6983

In Accordance With: The U.S. Environmental Agency National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR Parts 141 and 140

Introduction:

It is our pleasure to provide you with our 2015 Water Quality Report. This annual report is a summary of last year's water quality produced at the McHenry water treatment plant. Included are details about where your water comes from, water quality tests results, how they compare to standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and answers to frequently asked questions. In 2015, once again, all the water produced at the McHenry Water Treatment Plant exceeded all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:

The McHenry Water System obtains all of its raw water from four separate wells (ground water). The wells are 309, 210, 371, and 100 feet deep. The source of the McHenry Water Supply is the Greenbrier and Mauch Chunk Formations, which are unconfined, sandstone and shale aquifers. The Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) is approximately 456 acres and is irregular in shape.

How Your Water is Treated:

The raw water obtained from the wells is disinfected with chlorine to kill harmful bacteria and viruses.

Testing Parameters:

The McHenry Water System analyzes its finished drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration. The system also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. The Water Quality Data table on the back shows all of the contaminants detected in McHenry's drinking water between January 1 and December 31, 2015 unless dated otherwise.

Source Water Assessment:

The Garrett County Public Utilities has received from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration, Water Supply Program, a Final Source Water Assessment for the McHenry Water System. This report is available for your review upon request to the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities, (301) 334 - 6976. The assessment determined that the McHenry Water supply is moderately susceptible to radon-222 and nitrate. The system has a low susceptibility to volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, other inorganic compounds, other radionuclides, and microbiological contamination.

General Drinking Water Information:

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants and radioactive contaminants. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.
Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

WATER SUPPLY
APR 27 2016
PROGRAM

The Bottom Line:

Last year your tap water met all drinking water standards. However, some individuals may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. Those individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

For More Information:

Please contact the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities at 301-334-6983 or the Laboratory Director at 301-387-6162 for additional information regarding the data in this report. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners holds regularly scheduled public meetings every Tuesday at 9:00am. The public meeting room is located in the Court House at 203 South 4th Street, Oakland, MD. Please call to schedule your topic on the agenda for discussion at any regularly scheduled meeting.

WATER QUALITY TABLE

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Distribution System	McHenry WTP	Gravelly Run WTP	Willows WTP	Highest Level Allowed MCL	Ideal Goal MCLG	Sample Date	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead *	ppb	6				AL = 15	0	Dec-13	corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	0.52				AL = 1.3	1.3	Dec-13	household plumbing systems
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	3.3				80	n/a	Aug-14	drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	ppm	1.3	Range of dectects 0 - 1.3			4	4	2015	used to control microbes
Nitrates	ppm		1.5	0.6	1.3	10	10	Sep-15	fertilizer and leaching from
Barium	ppm		0.093	0.028	0.086	2	2	Sep-15	erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants									
Sodium	ppm		4.64	2.35	7.44		n/a	Sep-15	
Radon - 222	pCi/L			568			n/a	Oct-13	

*The Maryland Dept. of the Environment requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.
Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and weather future regulation is warranted.

Terms and Units Defined:

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for the water system.
ppm - parts per million: Corresponds to one penny in $10,000. **ppb - parts per billion:** Corresponds to one penny in $10,000,000.
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 best available treatment technology. **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** 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. **pCi/l - picocuries per liter:** A measure of radioactivity.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 Department of Utilities 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 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.