

Eastern Correctional Institution

2015 Drinking Water

Quality Report

PWSID: 019-0013



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, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of Eastern Correctional Institution.

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 have questions concerning your water utility, please contact *Jay Janney* at 410-729-8361, e-mail jjann@menv.com.

For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please contact Mr. David Aalders the Facility Maintenance Supervisor for the Eastern Correctional Institution at 410-758-4329.

The Eastern Correctional Institution water works consists of three drilled wells in the Patapsco formation, a treatment facility, two 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tanks and a distribution network. The treatment facility consists of three reverse osmosis units and the associated pre-treatment filters. Liquid chlorine is fed facility to help disinfect the water and calcium chloride is fed to adjust hardness. 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*

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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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.

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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 Eastern Correctional Institution is tested for over 120 different compounds.

The Eastern Correctional Institution 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)*

RADON:

We constantly monitor the water supply for various constituents. We have detected radon in the water supply on a sample collected June 25, 2007. At this time, there is no Federal Regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects. The radon result of the June 2007 sample ranges from 11 to 25 pCi/l (pCi/l = picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity). For additional information call *the EPA radon hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.*

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Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Combined Radium (2008 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	0.6 pCi/l	n/a
Gross Beta - (2009 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits *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	50 pCi/l*	4.7 pCi/l**	0.0 pCi/l
Fluoride (2014 Testing) (Range: 0.84 ppm to 1.03 ppm) Source: Water additive which promotes strong teeth	4 ppm	1.03 ppm	4 ppm
Barium (2014 Testing) (Range: 10.0 ppb to 16.7 ppm) Source: Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	2000 ppb	16.7 ppb	2000 ppb
Selenium (2014 Testing) (Range: 0.0 ppb to 2.7 ppb) Source: Erosion of natural deposits, Discharge from mines and/or petroleum refineries.	50 ppb	2.7 ppb	50 ppb
Regulated in the Distribution System	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Total Coliform Source: Naturally present in the environment	No more than one sample per month may be positive	1 Positive	0 Positive
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2015 Testing) Source: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb	14.9 ppb	n/a
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2015 Testing) Source: By-product of drinking water disinfection	60 ppb	4.1 ppb	n/a
Chlorine Source: Water additive to control microbes. * Average of monthly results	4 ppm	0.78 ppm (Range: 0.63 - 1.00 ppm)	4 ppm
Regulated in the Distribution System	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2013 Testing) Source: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	1300 ppb	372 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead (2013 Testing) Source: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems; Erosion of natural deposits	15 ppb	3 ppb	0 ppb

The table above 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.

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

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.



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 Eastern Correctional Institution 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>.

Important Information Regarding Gross Beta Emitters:

Beta 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 Beta, however some people who drink water containing Beta emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross beta detected is 4.7 pCi/L which is below the 50 pCi/L MCL.

