Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

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MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

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 Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

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 **Ms. Sharon Mattia with the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs at 301-884-8171**.

Inside This Issue:

The water for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home consists of two drilled wells in the Aquia aquifer, a treatment facility, a 250,000 gallon elevated water storage tank and a distribution network. The treatment facility consists of a chemical feed designed to disinfect the water. 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**

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.
- **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units.** Units of measurement used to report the level of turbidity or "cloudiness" in 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 Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is tested for over 120 different compounds.

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 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).**

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Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Nitrate Source: Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from fertilizer, and leaching from septic tanks and sewage	10 ppm	0 ppm	10 ppm
Barium (2013 Testing) (Range: 23.9 ppb to 26.1 ppb) Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries and drilling waste	2000 ppb	25 ppb* * Average	2000 ppb
Arsenic (2013 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste	10 ppb	4 ppb* * Average	0 ppb
Gross Beta (2011 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits	50 pCi/l	14.6 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Fluoride (2013 Testing) (Range: 214 ppb to 217 ppb) Source: Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	4000 ppb	216 ppb* * Average	4000 ppb
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate (2007 Testing) Source: PVC plastics	6 ppb	0.8 ppb	0 ppb
Regulated in the Distribution System			
Chlorine (Range: 0.48- 2.20 ppm) Source: Water additive to control microbes.	4 ppm	1.6 ppm	4 ppm
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2015 Testing) Source: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb	4.6 ppb	n/a
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2015 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	60 ppb	1.8ppb	n/a
Regulated in the Distribution System	Treatment Technique	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	151 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead (2013 Testing) Source: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems; Erosion of natural deposits	15 ppb	6 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.

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 14.6 pCi/L which is below the 50 pCi/L MCL. This information can be viewed in the Water Quality Report table.

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.

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 Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 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.**

Water Security is Everyone's Responsibility

Water system security continues to be an enormously important issue. If you notice suspicious activities in or around local water utilities, such as persons cutting or climbing facility fencing, loitering, tampering with equipment or other similar activities, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately by dialing 911.