Martingham Utilities 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 020-0004

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2015 for the Martingham Community. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. The Martingham Utilities Cooperative (Cooperative) owns the water treatment system serving the Martingham Community. Talbot County operates the water treatment facility for the Cooperative.

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 completes Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact *the Martingham Utilities Cooperative office at (410) 745-5738.*

For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, the Martingham Utilities Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM.

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The Martingham Utilities water system consists of two deep wells in the Aquia aquifer. After the water is pumped out of the well(s) and treated, disinfectant is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results can be made available through the Cooperative.

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 and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention 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).*

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 system serving the Martingham Community is tested for over 120 different compounds.

The Martingham Utilities 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)*

Arsenic Information:

The Martingham Utilities Cooperative constructed a new arsenic removal Water Treatment System in 2009. Since the new system was placed in service, arsenic levels have been less than the national standard of 10ppb. However, the water does contain very low, allowable, levels of arsenic. The 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.

Martingham Utilities Treated Water Quality Report 2015

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Fluoride (2014 Testing) (Range 0.27 ppm - 0.29 ppm)	4 ppm	0.29 ppm	4 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive which promotes strong teeth			
Arsenic	10 ppb	8.5 ppb	10 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(Range 4.7 ppb - 8.5 ppb)	
Selenium (2014 Testing)	50 ppb	11.0 ppb	50 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(Range 9.7 ppb - 11.0 ppb)	
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2007 Testing)	5 pCi/l	0.5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive which promotes strong teeth			
Gross Beta - (2013 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	12.2 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(Range: 10.5 pCi/l to 12.2 pCi/l)	
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles			
** Average - Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			
Regulated in the Distribution System			
Chlorine	4 ppm	1.43 ppm *	4 ppm
Water additive used to control microbes		Range (0.90 - 1.96)	
* Average of results			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2015 Testing)	80 ppb	12.4 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) (2015 Testing)	60 ppb	2.2 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			
Regulated in the Distribution System	**Action Level**	**90th percentile**	**Ideal Goal**
Copper (2014 Testing)	1300 ppb	153 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2014 Testing)	15 ppb	4 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

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 preformed January 1 – December 31, 2015. The State requires the Cooperative to monitor 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-

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. The Cooperative treats 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 Cooperative 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 Conservation

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference—try one today and soon it will become second nature

- Check for water leaks by the reading your water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is being used in your home. If the reading changes then there is probably a leak in your home.
- Take a shower! Filling up a bathtub can use up to 70 gallons of water while a shower generally uses 10 to 25 gallons. Taking shorter showers saves even more water.
- Make sure your washing machine and dishwasher are fully loaded before running.

Are you in the market for a new water fixture such as a faucet, showerhead or toilet? Consider a WaterSense labled fixture and reduce your water use by 30 percent or more versus standard flow fixtures. Visit *www.epa.gov/watersense* for more information on water efficiency products and methods.

Source: http://www.epa.gov/watersense & http://eartheasy.com

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call the Cooperative office at (410) 745-5738