# 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE BROOK LANE HEALTH SERVICES WATER SYSTEM PWSID # 0210004

**Is my water safe?**
Last year your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Brook Lane Health Services and the Washington County Department of Water Quality vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our water system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**
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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Where does my water come from?**
Brook Lane Health Services utilizes three wells as its water source. The water from the wells is chlorinated prior to entering the distribution system.

**Source water assessment and its availability**
The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program (WSP) has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Brook Lane Health Services water system. The required components of this report as described in Maryland's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) are 1) delineation of an area that contributes water to the source, 2) identification of potential sources of contamination, and 3) determination of susceptibility of the water supply to contamination. Recommendations for protecting the drinking water supply conclude this report.

The sources of Brook Lane's water supply are three wells in an unconfined fractured rock aquifer. The Source Water Assessment area was delineated by the WSP using EPA approved methods specifically designed for this source type. Point sources of contamination were investigated within the assessment area from field inspections, contaminant inventory databases, and previous studies. The Maryland Office of Planning's 2000 digital land use map for Washington County was used to identify non-point sources of contamination. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed. An aerial photograph and maps showing potential contaminants sources and land use within the Source Water Assessment area are included in this report.

The susceptibility analysis is based on review of the existing water quality data for the Brook Lane Water System, the presence of potential sources of contamination in the source water assessment area, well integrity, and the inherent vulnerability of the aquifer. It was determined that Radon-222, a naturally occurring contaminant, may pose a risk to the Brook Lane Health Services water supply. The water supply is not susceptible to other radionuclides, inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, or microbiological contaminant.

For more information on this report, please contact Mr. Paul Gyurisin at (301) 733-0330.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**
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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**How can I get involved?**
For information on how to get involved with the Brook Lane Health Services Water System, please contact Mr. Paul Gyurisin at (301) 733-0330.

# Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Your Water | Range Low | Range High | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products** | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 4.54 | 4.54 | 4.54 | 2015 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.4 | 2015 | No | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 2013 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2015 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2013 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| | | | | | | | | |
| **Radioactive Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 2015 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 2015 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | .741 | 2015 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 5 | 2015 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

**Additional Information for Lead**

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. Brook Lane Health Services 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

**Additional Information for Arsenic**

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.

| **Unit Descriptions** | |
|---|---|
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. |
| pCi/L | pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |
| **Important Drinking Water Definitions** | |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| MCLG | 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. |
| MCL | 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 the best available treatment technology. |
| AVG | Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running average of monthly samples. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| MRDL | 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. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

The Washington County Department of Water Quality conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are located in The Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

**TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST**

| PARAMETER | LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED | UNIT OF MEASUREMENT |
|---|---|---|
| pH | 7.0 to 7.9 | Standard Unit |

For more information on the
Brook Lane Health Services Water System
Contact Mr. Paul Gyurisin at (301) 733-0330