

Pond at Church Hill 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report



Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2013. 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 the Pond at Church Hill.

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 410-729-8350, 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 Charlotte Sutton with *the Pond at Church Hill* at 410-708-4048.

The Pond at Church Hill water works consists of two drilled wells in the Aquia formation. After the water is pumped out of the well 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 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 Pond at Church Hill is tested for over 120 different compounds.

The Pond at Church Hill 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

Important information about 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 risk 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 are well below the treatment technique of 50 pCi/l.

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Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Gross Beta (2011 Testing)	50 pCi/l	5.1 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical source of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Fluoride (Range: 212 ppb - 222 ppb) (2013 Testing)	4000 ppb	217 ppb*	4000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Additive which promotes strong teeth		*average	
Barium (Range: 182 ppb - 187 ppb) (2013 Testing)	2000 ppb	185 ppb*	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		*average	
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2011 Testing)	5 pCi/l	1.1 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of Contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Regulated in the Distribution System			
Copper (2011 Testing)	1300 ppb (action level)	40 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems		90th percentile	
Lead (2011 Testing)	15 ppb (action level)	1 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems		90th percentile	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2011 Testing)	80 ppb	6.26 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2013 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, 2013. 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.

Fluoride Information:

Federal regulations require that fluoride, which occurs naturally in your water supply, not exceed a concentration of 4.0 mg/l (4000 ppb) in drinking water. This is an enforceable standard called a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and it has been established to protect the public health. Exposure to drinking water levels above 4.0 mg/l for many years may result, in some cases, of crippling skeletal fluorosis, which is a serious bone disorder.

Federal law required that we notify you when monitoring indicates that the fluoride in your drinking water exceeds 2.0 mg/l (2000 ppb). This is intended to alert families about dental problems that might affect children under nine years of age. The fluoride concentration of your water exceeds this federal guideline.

Fluoride in children's drinking water at levels of approximately 1 mg/l reduces the number of cavities. However, some children exposed to levels of fluoride greater than about 2.0 mg/l may develop fluorosis. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate and severe forms, is a brown staining and/or pitting of the *permanent* teeth. Because dental fluorosis occurs only when *developing* teeth (before they erupt from the gums) are exposed to elevated levels of fluoride, households without children are not expected to be affected by this level of fluoride. Families with children under the age of nine are encouraged to seek other sources of drinking water for their children to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting.

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 Pond at Church Hill 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.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Jay Janney at 410-729-8350 or email your request to jjann@menv.com.

