PWSID: 006-0008

Town of New Windsor 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2014. 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 Town of New Windsor.

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, the Town Meetings are held at the 1100 Green Valley Road, in the "Community Meeting Room" of the recently renovated Carroll County Library Admin building or contact *the Town Office for additional information at (410) 635-6575.*

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The Town of New Windsor water works consists of two drilled wells in the Sams Creek Phyllite formation and a natural spring. After water is pumped out of the wells and collected from the spring, 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.*

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).*

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:

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)*

Important information regarding Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha 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 alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 6.3 pCi/L which is below the 15 pCi/L MCL.

Town of New Windsor Treated Water Quality Report 2014

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Main Spring and Dennings Road Spring - New Windsor Road - Plant I.D. 01			
Nitrate (Range 3.1 ppm - 4.1 ppm)	10 ppm	3.4 ppm*	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits		*average	
Barium (2014 Testing)	2000 ppb	5.5 ppb	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2014 Testing)	6 ppb	2.3 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: PVC Plastics			
Hillside Water Plant wells 1 and 2 - Lamber Ave & Hillside Drive - Plant I.D. 03			
Nitrate (Range 4.0 ppm - 4.1 ppm)	10 ppm	4.1 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits			
Barium (2014 Testing)	2000 ppb	37.1 ppb	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Alpha (2013 Testing)	15 pCi/l	6.3 pCi/l*	0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
* Please read page 2 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters			
Combined Radium 226 & 228 (2013 Testing)	5pCi/l	2.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2012 Testing)	6 ppb	4.44 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: PVC Plastics			
Regulated in the Distribution	**Action level**	**90th percentile**	**Ideal Goal**
Copper (2012 Testing)	1300 ppb	167 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2012 Testing)	15 ppb	3 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2014 Testing)	80 ppb	4.3 ppb*	N/A
Typical Source of Contaminants: By-product of drinking water disinfection		(Range: 4.0 ppb to 4.6 ppb) * Average	

The table on the previous page lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2014 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, 2014. 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.

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.

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.

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 Town of New Windsor 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.

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.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE