

# Bramble Hills

PWSID #0060016

*Community Water System \* City of Westminster,  
Maryland*

## 2016 Annual Water Quality Report

*This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the City of Westminster, Department of Public Works. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information of the Source of the Water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to the community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have questions, call the Cranberry Water Plant at 410-848-7040.*

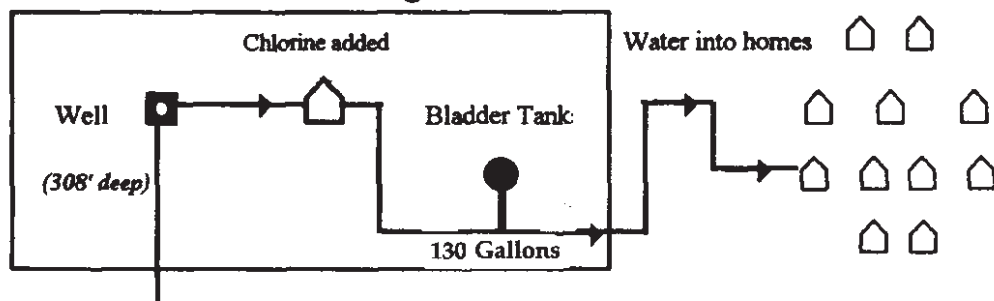
### Source

The Bramble Hills service area is supplied by groundwater pumped from a single well in the Ijamsville phyllite, located one-half mile south of Westminster in Carroll County. This well is located in the treatment building, which houses a 130 gallon bladder tank. After the pumped water is metered, it is chlorinated using Sodium Hypochlorite for disinfection. The water enters the PVC 4" water main, installed in 2007.

### Treatment Building

#### Chlorine Building

### Bramble Hills Treatment Process



*continued*

## Important Health Information

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 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) **Microbial Contaminants**, *such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.*
- (B) **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.*
- (C) **Pesticides and Herbicides**, *which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.*
- (D) **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.*
- (E) **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.

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. The 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Radon Information

The Bureau of Utilities tested for Radon<sup>1</sup> in 2005. The water showed an average Radon level of 2,053 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States and can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State Radon Program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

### Copper and Lead Information

In July of 2016 the Department of Public Works tested for Lead and Copper. Test results showed Lead and Copper to be well below EPA's Action Level of 15 ppb/lead and 1.3 ppm/copper. (See Water Quality Table). Additional testing will be performed per MDE requirements.

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.

*continued*

## An Explanation of the Water Quality Table

It's easy! The water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked "Detected Level" shows the highest test results during the year. "Major Sources" show where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. The State allows the county to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not change frequently. Some of the Bramble Hills data, though representative, is more than one year old.

### Key to Table

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (*ug/L*)

na = Not Applicable

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

<sup>1</sup>MCL regulation pending

<sup>2</sup>The EPA considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles

## Important Drinking Water Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology, and taking cost into consideration.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's all for a margin of safety, and are non-enforceable public health goals.

**Detected Level:** The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

**Range:** The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

For additional information, contact the City of Westminster, at 410-848-7040; or consult our web site at [westgov.com](http://westgov.com). For further information, see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html), and [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com); or by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800- 426-4791.

For billing information, call 410-848-3255, and for Operation and Maintenance inquiries, call 410-848-7040, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. An answering machine is available after hours.

## Bramble Hills Water System Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range	Major Sources
		ppm					
Nitrate	2016	ppm	10	10	1.13		Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
		ppm					
		ppm					
		ppb					
		ppb					

Lead and Copper	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Major Sources
Copper	2016	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.795		Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2016	ppb	0	15	3.3		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Average Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Chlorine	2016	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.0	0.9 – 1.0	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM	2016	ppb	na	80	ND		By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	2016	ppb	na	60	ND		By-product of drinking water chlorination
	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range	Major Sources
		ppb					

### Key To Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level

Goal

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams

per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms

per liter (ug/L)

TT = Treatment Technique

na = not applicable

ND = Non Detect

This report was provided with the technical assistance of Consumer Confidence Services, a division of Environmental Health Laboratories.

For more information, call Bret Grossnickle with the City of Westminster at 410-848-7040

The City of Westminster 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>.