

Town of Galena

2016 Drinking Water

Quality Report



Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2016. 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 Galena.

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 Council generally meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Or contact:

Barbra A. Shaw, Town Clerk/ Treasurer
410-648-5151 ext 302

Inside This Issue:

Definitions	2
Special Points of Interest	2
Water Quality Report	3
Lead Prevention	3
Sources of Drinking Water	4
Fluoride Information	4

The Town of Galena water works consists of two drilled wells in the Patapsco formation. Before the water enters the distribution network, chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into two elevated storage towers. 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)**.

Town of Galena Treated Water Quality Report 2016

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 Town of Galena is tested for over 120 different compounds. **The Town of Galena's 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)

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 0.0 pCi/L which is below the 15 pCi/L MCL.

Town of Galena Treated Water Quality Report 2016

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Barium (2015) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits	2000 ppb	54.9 ppb (Range: 51.7 - 54.9 ppb)	2000 ppb
Fluoride (2015) Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive which promotes strong teeth	4.0 ppm	0.181 ppm (Range: 0.12 - 0.181 ppm)	4.0 ppm
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Gross Beta - (2016 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits *EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles ** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/L, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required	50 pCi/l*	7.3 pCi/l**	0.0 pCi/l
Regulated in the Distribution System		Action Level	90th percentile
Copper (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	1300 ppb	329 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 ppb
Chlorine Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive to control microbes.	4 ppm	0.84 ppm (Range: 0.55 - 1.27 ppm)	4 ppm

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2016 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, 2016. 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.

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 Galena 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.

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.

Fluoride Information:

Federal regulations require that fluoride, which occurs naturally in your water supply, not exceed a concentration of 4.0 mg/l 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. 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.

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

Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

Consumer Confidence Report Certification

Water Supply System Name: TOWN OF GALENA

PWSID: 014-0004 County: KENT

Consumer Confidence Report due to customers and to MDE no later than July 1st;
Certification of Delivery due to MDE no later than October 1st each year.
CCR and Certification are best delivered together by email attachment if possible.

I confirm that the Consumer Confidence Report for the year **2016** has been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given) in accordance with COMAR 26.04.01 by July 1, 2017. I further certify that the report is correct and consistent with compliance monitoring data previously submitted to MDE.

Certified by: Name SHARON WEYGAND
Signature Sharon Weygand
Title TOWN MANAGER
Phone # 410-648-5151 Date _____

Specific details on CCR distribution: (Date all that apply)

6/4/17 Date CCR was delivered to MDE.

7/14/17 Date CCR was distributed by mail. Delivering with quarterly water bills in July.

6/5/17 Date CCR was distributed by other methods. List methods of delivery: Post on bulletin board - available upon request
copies available in meeting room & announced at town meeting
☐ Approved electronic delivery plan is on file with MDE. (Check if applicable)
____ Date a notice of CCR availability was published.

____ Date good faith efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following recommended methods:

6/13/17 Date of posting the CCR on the Internet at: www.townofgalena.com

____ Date of mailing the CCR to postal patrons (bulk mail) within the service area (attach zip codes).

____ Date of advertising availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of announcement).

____ Date of publication of CCR in local newspaper (attach copy).

____ Date of delivery of multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large private employers.

____ Date of delivery to community organizations (attach a list).

Check violation types addressed:

- ☐ A tier 3 public notice is distributed with the CCR.
- ☐ Monitoring violations are addressed in the CCR.
- ☐ MCL violations are addressed in the CCR.
- ☐ CCR Delivery or Adequacy Violations are addressed in the CCR.

Mandatory for systems serving 100,000 or more persons:

____ Date posted CCR on a publicly accessible Internet site. List Internet address: _____

____ Date CCR delivered to other agencies or additional methods used. (Optional, attach list or description).

MDE/WMA/COM.025 (Revised 3/2016)