

2016 Water Quality

Consumer Confidence Report

Pomunk Water Company 008-0084

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Pomunk Water Company vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not 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?

The sources of the drinking water for the Bryans Road System are the Patapsco and Patuxent Aquifers. An aquifer is an underground reservoir or deposit of water that is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The earth between the surface and the underground aquifer helps to purify the water, making it easier to treat the water supply before it is pumped into the water distribution system. The Bryans Road system is served by 4 wells (Well #6, Strawberry Hills, South Hampton and Standpipe).

Source water assessment and its availability

Source water Assessment was conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program. It is available through the water supply program by calling 1 (800) 633-6101.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems. 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.

Lead Statement

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. Pomunk Water Company 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>.

How can I get involved?

The most important impact the consumer can have on the water supply is to recognize the finite nature of our water supply and to practice water conservation principles.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

Tap water samples were collected from homes throughout the service area and tested for lead and copper				
Contaminant	MCL	Detected Level	MCLG	Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids, ug/l (Pomunk System)	60	0	N/A	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids, ug/l (Bryans Road System)	60	1.6	N/A	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes, ug/l (2014) (Pomunk System)	80	9.1	N/A	by-product of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes, ug/l (Bryans Road System)	80	13.0	N/A	by-product of drinking water disinfection
Copper, mg/l (2014) (Bryans Road System)	1.3	0.052	1.3	leaching from plumbing
Lead, ppb (2014)	15	0	0	leaching from plumbing

Bryans Road System				
Regulated Contaminants	MCL	Detected Level	MCLG	Source of Contamination
Fluoride, mg/l				
So. Hampton	4	0.79	4	erosion of natural deposits
Well 6	4	0.79	4	erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha, pCi/l				
Well 6	15	5.4	0	erosion of natural deposits
So. Hampton (2014)	15	3.9	0	erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants	MCL	Detected Level	MCLG	Source of Contamination
Sodium, mg/l				
So. Hampton (2012)	N/A	56.5	N/A	naturally present in nature
Well 6 (2012)	N/A	70.6	N/A	naturally present in nature

Definitions:

- (1) **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: the highest level of a contaminant allowed to be present in drinking water
- (2) **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: the level of contaminant in drinking water below which, there is no known or expected health risk
- (3) **Action Level**: the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which the system must follow
- (4) **mg/l**: milligrams per liter, or parts per million
- (5) **ug/l**: micrograms per liter, or parts per billion
- (6) **mrem/yr**: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- (7) **pCi/l**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- (8) *50 EPA considers 50 pCi/yr a level of concern for Beta particles

Executive Summary
POMUNK
008-0084

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program (WSP) has conducted Source Water Assessments for fifty-seven community water systems in Charles County, including Pomunk 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 the susceptibility of the water supply to contamination. Recommendations for protecting the drinking water supply conclude this report.

The water supply sources of the community systems in Charles County are naturally protected confined aquifers of the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province. The Pomunk water system is currently using one well that pumps water from the Patapsco Formation. The Source Water Assessment area was delineated by the WSP using U.S. EPA approved methods specifically designed for water supplies in confined aquifers.

Potential sources of contamination were researched and identified within the assessment area from field inspections, contaminant and well inventory databases, and land use maps. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed. A map showing the Source Water Assessment areas are available on request.

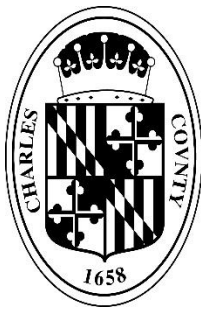
The susceptibility analysis is based on a review of the existing water quality data for each water system, the presence of potential sources of contamination in the individual assessment areas, well integrity, and aquifer characteristics. It was determined that the Pomunk water supply is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the land surface due to the protected nature of confined aquifers. The susceptibility of the water supply to radon, naturally occurring element, will depend upon the final MCL that is adopted for this contaminant.

For more information please contact:

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2016
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Bryans Road Community – MD0080033
Charles County, Maryland
Prepared by the Department of Public Works
Utilities Division

We are pleased to present the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Bryans Road Community for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. This report informs you about the quality of the water and services we deliver to you every day. This report is provided in compliance with Federal regulations and is updated annually.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to protecting water resources, improving the water treatment process, and ensuring the quality of your water meets or exceeds all local, State, and Federal standards and regulations. We are confident the drinking water from the Bryans Road system is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements.

Usted puede obtener esta información en español, llamando al Departamento de Obras Públicas División de Utilidades en 301-609-7400.

The sources of the drinking water for the Bryans Road system are the Patapsco and Patuxent Aquifers. An aquifer is an underground reservoir or deposit of water that is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The earth between the surface and the underground aquifer helps to purify the water, making it easier to treat the water supply before it is pumped into the water distribution system. The Bryans Road system is served by 4 wells (Well #6, Strawberry Hills, South Hampton Well #1 and Well #2).

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade, such as microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. The elderly, infants, and immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) or other immune system disorders, can be at a higher risk of infection from contaminants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control (EPA/CDC) guidelines to reduce the risk of infection are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Department of Public Works, Utilities Division, routinely monitors the Bryans Road system for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring efforts and identifies the year a contaminant was tested. The results of testing for contaminants which are not regulated are listed in the Unregulated Contaminants section. Definitions of key terms are presented below the table.

Bryans Road System

Test Results						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Major Source in Drinking Water
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha emitters	N	5.4	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Fluoride	N	0.79	Ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead Distribution (2014)	N	0	Ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper Distribution (2014)	N	0.052	Ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] Distribution	N	13.0	Ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5s Haloacetic Acids Distribution	N	5.6	Ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectants						
Chlorine	N	0.8 to 2.2	Ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additives to control microbes.

Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium So. Hampton (2012)		56.5				
Well 6 (2012)		70.6				
Str Hills Well (2013 Avg)	N	60.7	Ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions of Key Terms

- **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a system must follow.
- **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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)** – 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of 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 of microbial contaminants.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** – The laboratory analysis indicates the contaminant is non-detectable.

- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) – The equivalent of 1 minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.00
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – The equivalent of 1 minute in 2 years or a single penny in \$10,000.00.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Avg – average value

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of experiencing adverse health effects from the contaminant. The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep your drinking water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption.

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 Department of Public Works, Utilities Division, 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Conserving water saves you money!

Approximately sixty percent of total household water supply is used inside the home and forty percent is used outside the home. A few simple changes can reduce water usage. Run the dishwasher only when full. Use a dishpan or plug the sink when hand-washing dishes. Run full loads of laundry instead of many small loads. Pull weeds to decrease competition for water. Repair or replace leaking hoses and sprinklers.

The staff of the Department of Public Works, Utilities Division, works diligently to provide top quality water and excellent customer service. All customers are urged to protect our valuable water resources and practice conservation to ensure a sustainable water supply for our community. If you have any questions concerning this report or any aspect of your water utility, please contact Sam Simanovsky, Chief of Operations and Maintenance, at 301-609-7400.