WORCESTER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER & WASTEWATER DIVISION
1000 SHORE LANE
BERLIN MD 21811

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IMPORTANT NOTICE
Consumer Confidence Report

BRIDDLETOWN SERVICE AREA

2018 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWSID# 023-0015

INTRODUCTION

The Water & Wastewater Division of the Worcester County Department of Public Works is responsible for the provision of the safest possible drinking water to its customers in the Briddletown Service Area. During the period from January 1 to December 31, 2017, we conducted tests for drinking water contaminants and tested at least 1 time every month for Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform Bacteria as required by Federal and State law. We detected several contaminants and all of them were found to be significantly below established standards.

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided to you in 2017. Included are details about the source of your water, what your water contains, and how your water compares with the standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). If you have any questions about this report or need additional information concerning the drinking water being supplied to you, please call Gary Serman at 410-641-5251 extension 2415 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. any weekday.

OUR WATER IS SAFE, HOWEVER

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are 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 risks of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE OF WATER WATER

Your water comes from three wells sunk about 125 feet into an underground source of water called the Pocomoke Aquifer. These wells are owned and operated by the Town of Berlin, Md. We purchase water from the Town of Berlin, Md.

INFORMATION

While we do not have regularly scheduled meetings with your community, our personnel are available to answer any questions that you may have or to provide information concerning the operation of the water treatment system. To contact us, you can call Gary Serman at 410-641-5251, Extension 2415, or you can write to us at 1000 Shore Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

LEAD

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. Worcester County 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.***"

GENERAL

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 the water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wild life.
- *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.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile 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.

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

BRIDDLETOWN WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2017 calendar year. The presence of these 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 January 1-December 31, 2017. 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. Some of the data. though representative of the water quality. is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used below:

- **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** (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which. when exceeded. triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contamaninant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a 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 microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.
- **Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running average of monthly samples.
- **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter. or one ounce in 7.350.000 gallons of water
- **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter. or one ounce per 7.350 gallons of water
- **pCi/1**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- **mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **N/A:** not applicable.
- **Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/ or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

TEST RESULTS OF REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

(Samples collected by the Town of Berlin)

LEAD AND COPPER	Date sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination.
Copper	2015	1.3	1.3	0.46	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. leaching from wood preservatives. or corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2015	0	15	0	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits. leaching from wood preservatives. or corrosion of household plumbing systems

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	Collection date	Highest level detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chromium	2015	2.1	0 – 2.1	100	100	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits. discharge from steel and pulp mills.
Nitrate	2017	5	3.7 – 5.3	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use. leaching from septic tanks or erosion of natural deposits.
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2017	1	1-1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2017	11	11 -11	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	2017	0.6	0 – 0.6	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Sodium	2012	275.5		N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromoform	2014	3.8		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Methyl Tert Butyl Ether	2014	1.2		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	Possible fuel leak
Bromodichloromethane	2014	1.4		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	2014	3.4		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	2014	1.1		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	2014	0.6		N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

TEST RESULTS OF REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

(Samples collected by Worcester County)

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	Collection date	Highest level detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2017	2.8	2.8 -2.8	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2017	9.1	9.1 -9.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	2017	0.4	0.2 – 0.4	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.