

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The following pages comprise the Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for your water system.

To download the CCR into your word processing program, follow these steps. Remember you must have the document set up in Landscape Orientation.

- \* Choose Select All from the edit drop down MENU. (it will highlight all the information)
- \* Choose Edit from the Menu, select Copy from the edit dropdown Menu.
- \* Open your word processing program.
- \* Choose Edit from the MENU, select Paste from the edit dropdown MENU and the information will transfer.
- \* Choose Edit from the Menu.

In order to meet all the requirements of the CCR, you must include the following additional information if it pertains to your water system.

- \* The report must include the telephone number of the owner, operator, or designee of the community water system as a source of additional information concerning the report.
- \* In communities with a large proportion of non-English speaking residents, as determined by the Primacy Agency, the report must contain information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the report or contains a telephone number or address where such residents may contact the system to obtain a translated copy of the report and/or assistance in the appropriate language.
- \* The report must include information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water (e.g., time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings).
- \* If your water system purchases water from another source, you are required to include the current CCR year's Regulated Contaminants Detected table from your source water supply.
- \* If your water system had any violations during the current CCR Calendar year, you are required to include an explanation of the corrective action taken by the water system.
- \* If your water system is going to use the CCR to deliver a Public Notification, you must include the full notice and return a copy of the CCR and Public Notice with the public Notice. This is in addition to the copy and certification form required by the CCR Rule.
- \* The information about likely sources of contamination provided in the CCR is generic. Specific information regarding contaminants may be available in sanitary surveys and source water assessments and should be used when available to the operator.
- \* If a community water system distributes water to its customers from multiple hydraulically independent distribution systems fed by different raw water sources, the table should contain a separate column for each service area, and the report should identify each separate distribution system. Alternatively, systems may produce separate reports tailored to include data for each service area.

- \* Detections of unregulated contaminants for which monitoring is required are not included in the CCR and must be added. When added, the information must include the average and range at which the contaminant was detected.
- \* If a water system has performed any monitoring for Cryptosporidium, including monitoring performed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Collection Rule [ICR] (141.143), which indicates that Cryptosporidium may be present in the source water or the finished water, the report must include: (a) a summary of the results of the monitoring; and (b) an explanation of the significance of the results.
- \* If a water system has performed any monitoring for radon which indicate that radon may be present in the finished water, the report must include: (a) The results of the monitoring; and (b) An explanation of the significance of the results.
- \* If a water system has performed additional monitoring which indicates the presence of other contaminants in the finished water, EPA strongly encourages systems to report any results which may indicate a health concern. To determine if results may indicate a health concern, EPA recommends that systems find out if EPA has proposed an NPDWR or issued a health advisory for that contaminant by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). EPA considers detects above a proposed MCL or health advisory level to indicate possible health concerns. For such contaminants, EPA recommends that the report include: (a) the results of the monitoring; and (b) an explanation of the significance of the results noting the existence of a health advisory or a proposed regulation.
- \* If you are a groundwater system that receives notice from a state of a significant deficiency, you must inform your customers in your CCR report of any significant deficiencies that are not corrected by December 31 of the year covered by it. The CCR must include the following information:
  - The nature of the significant deficiency and the date it was identified by the state.
  - If the significant deficiency was not corrected by the end of the calendar year, include information regarding the State-approved plan and schedule for correction, including interim measures, progress to date, and any interim measures completed.
  - If the significant deficiency was corrected by the end of the calendar year, include information regarding how the deficiency was corrected and the date it was corrected.

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

MD0070016

TOWN OF NORTH EAST

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

TOWN OF NORTH EAST is Surface Water

For more information regarding this report contact:

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Phone 410-920-1627

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe.  
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## 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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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. 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 (800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Source Water Information

SWA = Source Water Assessment

| Source Water Name | Type of Water              | Report Status | Location |       |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------|-------|
| NORTH EAST CREEK  | 01-ROLLING MILL FTP LITTLE | SW            | Y        | _____ |
| NORTH EAST CREEK  | 02-LESLIE FILT PLT NORTH   | SW            | Y        | _____ |

**A source water assessment** has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/by\\_county.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx)

**PFAS** – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE’s website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

**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. **Town of North East** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact **Town of North East** at [410-287-8102](tel:410-287-8102). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Lead and Copper**

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Lead and Copper | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|---|
| Copper          | 2023         | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.061           | 0               | ppm   | Copper          | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 2023         | 0    | 15                | 1               | 0               | ppb   | Lead            | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |

**Water Quality Test Results**

- Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
- Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.
- Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- na: not applicable.
- mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

## Water Quality Test Results

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Regulated Contaminants

| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL      | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine                                   | 2023            | 1.2                    | 1.1 - 1.2                | MRDLG = 4             | MRDL = 4 | ppm   | N         | Water additive used to control microbes.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)                    | 2023            | 55                     | 38.8 - 72.6              | No goal for the total | 60       | ppb   | Y         | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)               | 2023            | 69                     | 28.2 - 155               | No goal for the total | 80       | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Inorganic Contaminants                     | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL      | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| Barium                                     | 2023            | 0.027                  | 0.024 - 0.027            | 2                     | 2        | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Fluoride                                   | 2023            | 0.6                    | 0.61 - 0.61              | 4                     | 4.0      | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]             | 2023            | 2                      | 1.68 - 1.82              | 10                    | 10       | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |

## Turbidity

|                                | Limit (Treatment Technique) | Level Detected | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Highest single measurement     | 1.0 NTU                     | 0.287 NTU      | N         | Soil runoff.                   |
| Lowest monthly % meeting limit | 0.3 NTU                     | 100%           | N         | Soil runoff.                   |

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration



## Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

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## Violations Table

| <b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>   |                        |                      |  |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. |                        |                      |  |
| <b>Violation Type</b>  | <b>Violation Begin</b> | <b>Violation End</b> | <b>Violation Explanation</b>   |
| MCL, AVERAGE   | 07/01/2023             | 09/30/2023           | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |