

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024***  
***Town of Secretary***  
***May, 2025***  
***PWSID 0090007***

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is a ground source which consists of four (4) deep wells. Two of these wells draw from the confined Piney Point Formation and our two new wells that draw from the Federalsburg formation.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Dorchester County Public Library.  
[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/c1.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/c1.aspx). For more information call 1-800-633-6101.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Yvonne Pritchett at Town Hall, 410-943-3113. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Secretary's Town Hall.

The Town of Secretary routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanogram per liter* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Arsenic (average) (range) (2024) Highest Level Detected	N	8.1-9.9 9	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (2024)	N	0.991	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Disinfection and Disinfection By-products</b>						
Chlorine (2024)	N	1.2	ppm	4	4	Water Additive used to control microbes
TTHM (distribution) [Total trihalomethanes] (2024)	N	11	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (distribution) (2024)	N	4	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<b>Lead and Copper</b>	Violation Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range of Tap Sampling	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	(AL Limits) / # Sites Over	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (distribution) (2022)	N	0.079	0.02-0.1184	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3  Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (distribution) (2022)	N	ND (<5)	0.005-0.005	ppb	0	AL= 15  Zero (0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

*Note: Test results are for year 2024 or as indicated; not all contaminants are required to be tested for annually. These are our most recent results.*

Our 2 new wells drilled into the Aquifer have been shown through testing to be free or very low in arsenic contamination. These were placed into service during 2009. These wells are currently being blended with our older wells which have produced water with an arsenic level below the MCL of 10 ppb entering our distribution system. We are continuing to test for arsenic on a quarterly basis as required by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Arsenic - While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

An initial inventory of service line pipe materials located within our service area required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. We submitted the service line inventory report by the deadline, and the "report is available upon request".

Secretary has completed the service line inventory required by U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (initial inventory due October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-943-3113.

Through completing a records review, it has been determined it has no Lead or Galvanized Replacement (GRR) service lines in its distribution system. This includes all system owned and customer portions of all service lines regardless of actual or intended use.

Construction records, meter replacements, and distribution maps were used to help us determine the composition of our systems service lines.

Secretary has reviewed all applicable sources of information to complete the inventory and will continue to identify and track service line materials as they are encountered during normal operations. If, in the future, a Lead or Galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service line is found within our system, we will prepare an updated inventory and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment and in addition, the inventory will be made publicly available for water customers to view, and customer will be notified of any change in the service line material, if applicable.

For more information on our service line inventory please call 410-943-3113.

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. Secretary 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 The Town of Secretary at 410-943-3113. 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>.

MCL's 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 having the described health effect.

The Maryland Rural Water Association's State Circuit Rider assisted with the completion of this report.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office if you have questions about this report.