

Mount St. Mary's University

2023 Drinking Water

Quality Report

PWSID: 010-0019



Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2023. 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, began operating the water treatment facility in June 2014 and prepared this report on behalf of the Mount St. Mary's University.

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 concerning your water utility, please contact **Tod Otis, Director of Capital Projects & Energy Management at 240-344-4765, e-mail: otis@msmary.edu**. Copies of this report will not be mailed to consumers but are available upon request from your utility.

For More Information:

Although Mount Saint Mary's Board of Directors meets on a quarterly basis, the meetings are not open to the public. If you have concerns, questions or suggestions that need the Board's attention, please contact William Davies at Mount Saint Mary's University 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

Inside This Issue:

Definitions	2
Special Points of Interest	2
Gross Alpha Emitters	2
Water Quality Report	3
Lead Prevention	4
Arsenic Information	4
Sources of Drinking Water	5
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	5

The Mount St. Mary's University water works consists of three drilled wells. Before the water enters the distribution network, chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into a storage tank. 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)**.

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
- ◆ **ppt** - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

Special Points of Interest:

The water at the Mount St. Mary's University is tested for over 120 different compounds. The Mount St. Mary's University's drinking water met all 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:

Mount St. Mary's University's water system was placed on quarterly monitoring for Gross Alpha beginning in October 2014. Compliance with the MCL will be determined based on a annual rolling average of quarterly results. 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 9.0 pCi/L.

The table on page 3 lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 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, 2023. 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.

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Point of Entry			
Nitrate Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use	10 ppm	2.0 ppm (range from 1.3 to 2.0 ppm)	10 ppm
Barium (2022 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits	2000 ppb	630 ppb (range from 310 to 630 ppb)	2000 ppb
Arsenic (2022 & 2023 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits	10 ppb	5.2 ppb (range from 4.37 to 5.2 ppm)	0 ppb
Chromium (2022 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel/pulp mills	100 ppb	9.4 ppb (Range: 2.5 to 9.4 ppb)	100 ppb
Fluoride (2022 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	4000 ppb	440 ppb (Range: 0 to 440 ppb)	4000 ppb
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2023 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.7 pCi/l (range from 0.3 to 1.7 pCi/l)	0 pCi/l
Uranium (2023 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	30 ug/l	8.1 ug/l (range from 5.0 to 9.9 ug/l)	0 ug/l
Gross Alpha (2023 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits * Result is a rotational annual average. Please read page 2 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters.	15 pCi/l*	8.0 pCi/l* (range from 0 to 9.9 pCi/l)	0.0 pCi/l*
Gross Beta - (2023 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*	5.7 pCi/l** (range from 0 to 5.7 pCi/l)	0.0 pCi/l
Regulated in the Distribution System			
Chlorine Water Additive used to control microbes. *Annual Rolling Average	4 ppm	1.3 ppm * (range from 0.53 to 1.73 ppm)	n/a
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2023 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination	80 ppb	17.2 ppb (range from 10.3 to 17.2 ppm)	n/a
Halacetic Acids (HAA5) (2023 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination	60 ppb	4.7 ppb (range from 1.1 to 4.7 ppm)	n/a
Regulated in the Distribution System			
	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2021 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	1300 ppb	220 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead (2021 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	15 ppb	3.2 ppb	0 ppb

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.



Important Information About Arsenic:

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the arsenic levels are being monitored quarterly. We are constantly evaluating alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.

Lead Prevention:

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 Mount St. Mary's University Water Treatment Plant 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, please contact Jay Janney at jjanney@menv.com for a list of laboratories in your area that provide drinking water testing. 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>.

Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:

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. No PFAS sampling was conducted for the Mount St Mary's College Water Treatment System during 2023. The results are available on MDE's website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Wells 3 & 5 2022 PFAS

Parameter	PFOS (ppt)	PFOA (ppt)	PFHxS (ppt)	GenX Chemicals (ppt)	PFNA (ppt)	PFBS (ppt)	Hazard Index (ppt)
Result	33.2	27.5	9.02	0	2.14	8.06	1.22
Limit	4	4	10	10	10	No limit	1.0
Compliant	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No

Well 6 2022 PFAS Results:

Parameter	PFOS (ppt)	PFOA (ppt)	PFHxS (ppt)	GenX Chemicals (ppt)	PFNA (ppt)	PFBS (ppt)	Hazard Index (ppt)
Result	4.91	5.86	2.86	0	0	3.4	0.32
Limit	4	4	10	10	10	No limit	1.0
Compliant	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes