

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Thurmont Water System

PWSID #010-0023

2023

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town’s drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing, that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, have 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

## Definitions of Abbreviations and Terms used in this report:

*MCLG*- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.

*MCL*-Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.

*TT* – Treatment Technique

*NTU*- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.

*PPM*- Parts per Million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

*PPB*- Parts per Billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

*PPT*- Parts per Trillion or nanogram per liter or one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.

*pCi/L*- Picocuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.

*NA*-Not Applicable

*ND*-Not Detected

*MRDL* – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

*MRDLG* – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

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

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	4	2.2-3.5	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Trichloroethylene	2023	1	0-0.61	0	5	ppb	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	6/14/2021	0.3	0.3 - 0.3	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	6/14/2021	2.3	0-2.3	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination				
Highest single measurement	5 NTU	.4 NTU	N	Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.				
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	1.0 NTU	100%	N					
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	0.9-1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	5	0-4.71	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	28	2.57-27.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>NOTE: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future</b>								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2021	1.3	1.3	.24	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2021	0	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Unregulated Contaminates	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	2023	40.2	3.72-40.2	N/A	N/A	ppt		Non-stick cookware, water resistant clothing, personal care items, firefighting foams.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2023	13.9	4.60-13.9	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2023	7.05	3.95-7.05	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	2023	3.51	2.05-3.51	N/A	N/A	ppt		

Information about lead in Drinking Water:

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 Town of Thurmont 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 Thurmont Water Superintendent Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313 for a list of laboratories in your area that provide water testing services. 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>.

Information about PFAS:

PFAS- or 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.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2023 ranged from 4.60-13.9 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentration from samples taken from our water system in 2023 ranged from 3.72-40.2 ppt. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx)

We at the Town of Thurmont Water Department work around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious resource, we ask you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water sources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 615 E. Main Street.