

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland

www.walkersvillemd.gov

PWSID #MD0100025

June 1, 2024

The Town of Walkersville is pleased to present the 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report for the period of January 1, 2023 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.

Source water for the Town's water system originates as groundwater that is pumped from three wells located in a highly-productive limestone aquifer. The limestone in the aquifer possesses large voids, or cavities, where the source water is stored. Springs and sinkholes are typically found within limestone aquifer areas. The presence of sinkholes allows for surface water to mix readily with groundwater, so the state has categorized the Town water system as groundwater under the influence of surface water. Thus, the Town's level of water treatment is equal to that of a surface water source system.

The Town of Walkersville strives to keep our valued water customers informed about their water utility provider. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Matt Orndorff, our Water Superintendent at 301-845-4500. To remain abreast of Town matters, including water service, please attend the twice monthly Town meetings of the Burgess and Commissioners. Town meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00PM in the meeting room of the Town Hall Office located at 21 W. Frederick St., Walkersville, MD 21793. Our website, linked above, provides an up-to-date calendar of all Town meetings as well as agendas and past meeting minutes.

In accordance with state and federal laws, the Town's Department of Public Works routinely monitors for contaminants in the Town's drinking water. As source water travels underground or over land, it can acquire substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, is reasonably expected to contain trace amounts of the aforementioned contaminants and it should be noted that mere presence does not necessarily pose a health risk. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, enforces regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, enforces regulations to limit contaminants in bottled water which provides the same protection for public health.

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.

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).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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 Walkersville 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 Walkersville at (301)845-4500. 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>.

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

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.

SOURCE WATER INFORMATION

SOURCE WATER NAME		TYPE OF WATER	REPORT STATUS	LOCATION
WALKERSVILLE 1	FR720037	GU		NEAR 0 MI W OF WALKERSVILLE APPROX. 500 FT W OF MD 194
WALKERSVILLE 2	FR810307	GU		NEAR 0 MI WALKERSVILLE APPROX. .25 MI W OF MD 194
WALKERSVILLE 3	FR815107	GU		NEAR 0 MI WALKERSVILLE APPROX. 300 FT E OF FOUNTAIN ROCK RD

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)
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.

The following tables show the results of the monitoring period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

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	1.3	1.2 – 1.3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2023	3*	0 – 3.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)*	2023	6*	0.77 – 6.08	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
Fluoride	10/12/22	0.68	0.68 – 0.68	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] - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than	2023	9	2.64 – 8.85	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

<p>six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.</p>								
Copper	2021	0.19	-	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

TURBIDITY

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.09 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

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	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff.

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The Town of Walkersville works around the clock to provide top quality water to every customer. Please contact our office, Monday through Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM, if you have any questions about the information presented in this 2023 Town of Walkersville Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Town of Walkersville
 21 W. Frederick St.
 PO Box 249
 Walkersville, MD 21793

Office: 301-845-4500
 After-Hours Water Emergency: 301-880-6510

*These values were previously reported as 2ppb (HAA5) and 4ppb (TTHM).