

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***  
***Town of Oakland***  
***PWSID #0110008***

We are very 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 our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the highest quality of your water.

The **Town of Oakland** routinely monitors your drinking water for contaminants according to Federal (EPA) and State (MDE) regulatory requirements. The Water Quality Data provided in this report will provide you with the results from our monitoring for the period of **January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. **We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets EPA and MDE drinking water standards.** The following report is provided in compliance with Federal regulations and is provided annually. This report outlines the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

**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 certain 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 (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. The **Town of Oakland** utilizes two Surface Water Sources. The **Youghiogeny River** supplies water for the **Bradley Lane Water Treatment Plant** and **Broadford Lake** supplies water for the **Broadford Water Treatment Plant**. Once the water is treated, it is pumped directly to the customer with excess capacity held in reserve at our 800,000 gallon water storage tank to meet daily needs. Water from both sources is blended together in this storage tank.

A **source water assessment** was performed by the **Maryland Department of the Environment** (MDE) and is available on their website:

[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)

### **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:**

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 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)**.

### **INFORMATION STATEMENT FROM EPA ON LEAD:**

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 Oakland** 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 **Dean Keafer at (301) 334-3836**. 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>.

### **WHAT IS PFAS?**

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) 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.

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

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerns with your water quality, please contact **Dean Keafer at (301) 334-3836**. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, 15 South Third Street, Oakland, Maryland. Please Call **(301) 334-2691** to schedule your topic on the agenda for discussion at any regularly scheduled meeting.

In the Water Quality Data table shown on the following page, you will find many terms, units 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 Nanograms per liter (ng/L)*** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

***Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)*** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)*** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

***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.

***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.

***Treatment Technique (TT)*** – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

***ND*** – not detected.

***NA*** – not applicable

## WATER QUALITY DATA

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	ppm	2023	0.041	0.0371 - 0.041	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	2023	0.6	0.229 - 0.573	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharger from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	2023	1	0.447 - 0.911	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	6/8/2021	0.6	0.6 - 0.6	0	5	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alph Excluding Radon & Uranium	pCi/L	6/8/2021	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	0	15	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	6/8/2021	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	0	50	NO	Decay of Natural and man-made emitters

### DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	ppm	2023	1	0.8 - 1	4	4	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	2023	40	16.7 - 53.9	na	80	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	2023	39	33.8 - 42.6	na	60	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
<b>Total Organic Carbon</b>	The Percentage of Total Organic Carbon was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violation section. Total Organic Carbon has no health effects. However, organic carbon provides medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health							

### LEAD AND COPPER: testing is performed on samples from customers tap between June thru September

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# Sites Over Action Level	MCLG	AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	ppb	2023	1.73	0	0	15		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Copper	ppm	2023	2.33	0	1.3	1.3		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

### TURBIDITY: testing was performed in 2023

Regulated Parameter	Units	Limit (TT)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources
Highest Single Measurement	ntu	1.0	0.21	NO	Soil Runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	ntu	95% of readings must be less than or equal to 0.3	100%	NO	Soil Runoff