



## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**McHenry Water System**  
**PWSID: 1111096**  
**301-334-6983**

**In Accordance With: The U.S.  
Environmental Agency National  
Primary Drinking Water Regulation  
40 CFR Parts 141 and 140**

### **Introduction:**

It is our pleasure to provide you with our 2023 Water Quality Report. This annual report is a summary of last year's water quality produced at the McHenry water treatment plant. Included are details about where your water comes from, water quality tests results, how they compare to standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and answers to frequently asked questions. In 2023, once again, all the water produced at the McHenry Water Treatment Plant exceeded all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We hope you find this report informative

and helpful. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

### **Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:**

The McHenry Water System obtains all of its raw water from four separate wells (ground water). The wells are 309, 210, 371, and 100 feet deep. The source of the McHenry Water Supply is the Greenbrier and Mauch Chunk Formations, which are unconfined, sandstone and shale aquifers. The Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) is approximately 456 acres and is irregular in shape.

### **How Your Water is Treated:**

The raw water obtained from the wells is disinfected with chlorine to kill harmful bacteria and viruses.

### **Testing Parameters:**

The McHenry Water System analyzes its finished drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration. The system also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. The Water Quality Data table on the back shows all of the contaminants detected in McHenry's drinking water between January 1 and December 31, 2023 unless dated otherwise.

### **Source Water Assessment:**

The Garrett County Public Utilities has received from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration, Water Supply Program, a Final Source Water Assessment for the McHenry Water System. This report is available for your review upon request to the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities, (301) 334 - 6976. The assessment determined that the McHenry Water supply is moderately susceptible to radon-222 and nitrate. The system has a low susceptibility to volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, other inorganic compounds,

other radionuclides, and microbiological contamination.

### **General Drinking Water information:**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants and radioactive contaminants. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

### **The Bottom Line:**

Last year your tap water met all drinking water standards. However, some individuals may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. Those individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other

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

### **For More Information:**

Please contact the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities at 301-334-6983 or the Laboratory Director at 301-387-6162 for additional information regarding the data in this report. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners holds regularly scheduled public meetings every Tuesday at 9:00am. The public meeting room is located in the Court House at 203 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, MD. Please call to schedule your topic on the agenda for discussion at any regularly scheduled meeting.

### **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 Department of Utilities 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 drinking water, and wish to have your water tested, contact the Garrett County Public Utilities laboratory at 301-387-6162. 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>.

**MCHENRY WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE**

Regulated Contaminants	Units	McHenry Distribution System	McHenry Water System	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead	ppb	2.5			AL = 15	0	2022	corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	ppm	0.52			AL = 1.3	1.3	2022	corrosion of household plumbing systems
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	1		1.1 - 1.1	80	n/a	2023	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	ppm	1.3		1.2 - 1.3	4	4	2023	Water additive to control microbes
Nitrates	ppm		3	0.875-2.67	10	10	2023	run-off from fertilizer and leaching from septic tanks
Fluoride	ppm		0.0159	0.0159-0.0159	4.0	4	2023	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Barium	ppm		0.0804	0.0804-0.0804	2	2	2023	Discharge from drilling waste and metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits

**PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) ANALYTICAL RESULTS**  
**Total PFAS parts per trillion (ppt) Collected September 21,2022**

Location	McHenry WTP 01	Gravelly Run WTP 04	Willows WTP 05
PFAS Result	<b>3.57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.03</b>

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>.

Total PFAS concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from 0 – 3.57 parts per trillion (ppt).

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."