

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Christmas Tree Farm Water System
PWSID #0180206

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 **Christmas Tree Farm Water System** 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 1st to December 31st, 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. **Our water source is a well which draws from a confined underground aquifer (name unknown) from a depth of approximately 410 feet. This well is located within the mobile home park properties.**

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

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. **Christmas Tree Farm Water System** 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 **Georgia Macrae at (301) 475-9811**. 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 **Georgia Macrae, Owner/Manager** by calling **(301) 475-9811** daily Monday thru Friday during normal business hours of 8:00 am until 4:30 pm.

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:

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.

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.

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
Fluoride	ppm	2023	0.292	0.292 - 0.292	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharger from fertilizer and aluminum factories

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	9/9/2020	16.2	16.2 - 16.2	0	50	NO	Decay of Natural and man-made emitters

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	2022	ND	0	0	15	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Copper	ppm	2022	ND	0	1.3	1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

VIOLATIONS TABLE

Lead and Copper Rule	The Lead and Copper Rule protects the public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and Copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.
Violation Type:	LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR)
Violation Begin:	1/1/2014
Violation End:	2023
Explanation:	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.
Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent water borne diseases caused by E. coli. E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems
Violation Type:	LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENT, MULTIPLE TC POSITIVE (RTCR)
Violation Begin:	9/16/2023
Violation End:	2023
Explanation:	We failed to properly complete a Level 1 Assessment in our water system
Violation Type:	LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT, 2ND LEVEL 1(RTCR)
Violation Begin:	10/16/2023
Violation End:	2023
Explanation:	We failed to properly complete a Level 2 Assessment in our water system