Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
PWSID 1071850 – BIG STONEY CREEK/RIPPLEMEAD

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2019 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Kevin Belcher at 540-921-2525

The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows:

The 1st and 3rd Thursday. Both meetings are held in the Giles County Administration Building located at 315 N. Main Street, Pearisburg, VA The 1st meeting is at 3:00 p.m. and the 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (4) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. (5) 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The source of your drinking water is groundwater and groundwater under the direct influence of surface water as described below:

Your drinking water is purchased from the Giles County PSA. The PSA obtains its water from two wells located in the Town of Pearisburg.

A source water assessment of the PSA wells were conducted in 2002 by the Virginia Department of Health. The wells were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the State in its approved source water assessment program. The report is available by contacting Mr. Kevin Belcher, Giles County Public Service Authority Director at 540-921-2525.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2019. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

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.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: the level of 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity, or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.54	N	1.15 - 3.54	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.98	N	0.94 – 0.98	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0285	N	0.0172 – 0.0285	2019	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	2.7	N	0.95 – 2.7	2019	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	0.12	N	0.07 – 0.12	2019	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.18	N	0.88 – 1.28	2019	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	15	N	NA	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	23	N	NA	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	NA	TT,1 NTU Max	0.08	N	0.04 – 0.08	2019	Soil runoff
		TT, ≤ 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	100%	N			

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Date of Sampling	# of Sampling Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	1.7	2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.156	2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Monitoring Results for Sodium (Unregulated-No Limits Designated)			
Level Detected (unit)	Sample Date	Typical Source	Guidance
16.2 (mg/L) Range: 3.07 – 16.2 mg/L	3/14/2019	Naturally Occuring; Addition of treatment chemicals/processes	For individuals on a very low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking-water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. Should you have a health concern, contact your health care provider.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data presented in the above tables, though accurate, is more than one year old.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

VIOLATION INFORMATION –No violations for 2019.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION REGARDING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER: If present, elevated levels of 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 County of Giles is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When you water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead