Town of Lovettsville Annual Drinking Water Report for 2023

Introduction

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the calendar year 2023 is designed to inform you about the quality of your drinking water as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report contains details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the federal and state standards administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The drinking water sources (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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800) 426-4791.

WHERE DOES THE TOWN'S WATER COME FROM, AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

The Town of Lovettsville produces drinking water from three groundwater wells located within the Town limits. Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Sand filtration filters out natural organic matter, iron and manganese. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill bacteria that may be in the water making it safe for consumption.

How can I get involved?

Please contact the Town of Lovettsville Town Office at (540) 822-5788.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

Cross-connections are unprotected or improper connections to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. The Town is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact the Town so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary. High risk items include: boiler/radiant heater (water heaters not included), underground lawn sprinkler system, and anything that has an automatic water fill such as some decorative ponds, watering troughs, and pools or hot tubs.

Protecting Our Water Supply

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment in 2002. Like most wells, the Town's 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 assessment report is available by contacting the Town of Lovettsville at (540) 822-5788.

Protecting our water supply is everyone's responsibility. You can help do your part by following these simple recommendations:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to the Town's public sewer system.

Dispose of chemicals, paints, fuels and pesticides properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center. For a schedule of hazardous material collection dates contact the Loudoun County Department of Solid Waste Management at 703-777-0100.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Town of Lovettsville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (Free) (ppm)	4	4	1.07	.44	1.68	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	8	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	NA	80	44.9	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
* The level detected for free chlorine is based on a quarterly running annual average.								
Chemical and Radiological Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.062	.045	.062	2022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.09	ND	0.09	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	15	7.4	ND	7.4	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (228/226) (pCi/L)	5	5	1.4	1.3	1.4	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.135	ND	.135	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.1	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	ND	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminant(s)								
	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Sodium (ppm)	NA	NA	15.4	13.3	15.4	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.

For more information please contact:

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