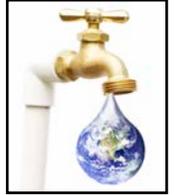


## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015* *City of Taneytown*

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**May 17, 2016**  
PWSID 0060012

**T**he City of Taneytown – Public Works Department would like to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water and services we deliver to you every day and to help you understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water is supplied by eight wells located throughout the City, which draw from the New Oxford aquifer (or Formation). Each well has its own chlorine disinfection treatment system. The finished (treated) water from each well is pumped into a distribution piping system, which includes two storage tanks.

We have a Source Water Assessment Plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) or at the Carroll County Public Library.

### **We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.**

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 for 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water (SDW) Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the City Office at 410-751-1100 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Council meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the City Office.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected in the City's drinking water supply. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances

that are naturally occurring or man made. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the SDW Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The City of Taneytown routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Range** – indicates lowest level to highest level of contaminant detected.

**N/A** - not applicable.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The “Maximum Allowed” is 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 “Goal” is 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 (MRDLG):**

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.

**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.

Inorganic Contaminants						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of contamination

Barium	No	ND-0.94 (range)	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	0.13-0.15 (range)	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury	No	ND- 0.0015 (range)	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Lead (2014)	No	<5.0 (90% percentile)	ppm	0	15 (Action level)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2014)	No	0.25 (90% percentile)	ppm	1.3	1.3 (Action level)	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	No	0.9-4.5 (range)	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (2013)	No	ND- .003	ppb	n/a	50	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (2013)	No	ND- .005	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (distribution)	No	0.9 (highest level)	ppm	MRDLG 4.0	MRDL 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
1,1 – Dichloroethylene	No	ND-2.58 (range)	ppb	7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1 Dichloroethane	No	ND-3.6 (range)	ppb	7	7	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Carbon Tetrachloride	No	ND-0.5 (range)	ppb	0	5	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.
Naphthalene (2014-2015)	No	ND-0.7 (range)	ppb	n/a	n/a	Found naturally in crude oil. It is also found in coal tar waste at former manufactured gas plants
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	2.8	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No	5.4	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Adjusted Gross Alpha Activity	No	4.7-11.5 (range)	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	No	0.11-2.1 (range)	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	No	3.49-6.53 (range)	pCi/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides						
DI (2-ethylhexyl) Pthalate	No	ND-2.2 (range)	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Unregulated Contaminants						
Bromochloroacetic Acid	No	ND-1.6 (range)	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sodium	No	19-30 (range)	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion from natural deposits

*Note: Test results are for 2015 unless otherwise indicated; all contaminants are not required to be tested for on an annual basis.*

**Average:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Maximum Contaminant Level:** EPA generally sets MCL's 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.

**Hardness:** Water is a strong solvent that dissolves varying amounts of mineral substances. Calcium and magnesium are the principle mineral contaminants that cause water to be "hard." The average hardness, system-wide, in Taneytown is 250 ppm (17.1 ppm = 1 grain). While not a health concern, high levels of hardness can cause other issues such as spots on dishes and the need to use extra soap for bathing, dishes, laundry, and hot water scaling.

**Arsenic:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**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. The City of Taneytown 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 drinking 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 EPA SDW Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Nitrates:** Levels above 10 ppm in drinking water is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activities. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**T**hank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office at 410-751-1100 if you have questions. We at the City of Taneytown work around the clock to provide top quality water at every tap. We ask that all our consumers, who are the heart of our community, help us protect our water because our way of life and our children's future depends on it.

*2015 Drinking Water Quality Report*