Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2022
Town of Westernport
April, 2023
PWSID # 0010033

The Town of Westernport is 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. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect the valuable water resources that we have available to our community. The Town of Westernport is committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is the Savage River, which is a surface supply.

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 at the Allegany County Public Library or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). More information at 1-800-633-6101. ***Results of the assessment can be found on the MDE website:***
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

This report is provided to you in compliance with federal and state regulations and reflects our finished water quality and what it means.

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).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Tim Jackson, Superintendent of Water, at our water filtration plant at (301) 616-7860. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled council meetings, which are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Westernport City Building located at 107 Washington Street, Westernport, Maryland 21562.

The Town of Westernport routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2022. 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 drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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:

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- one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.

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.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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 - The "Goal"(MCLG) 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity Highest single measurement Lowest monthly % meeting limit	 N N	 0.28 100%	 1.0 NTU 0.3 NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Lead and Copper						
Copper (Distribution) (2021)	N	0.22	ppm	0	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection and Disinfection By-Products						
Chlorine (2021)	N	1.3	ppm	4	4	Water Additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants						Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (2022)	N	0.0439	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) (2021) Range Highest level detected	N	0.78-0.9 1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants						Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228 (2020)	N	0.2	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts						
TTHM (Distribution) 2022 (Total trihalomethanes) Locational Annual Running Average Site # 1	N	15.47-37.88 27	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Distribution) 2022 (Haloacetic Acids) LocationalAnnual Running Average Site # 1	N	26.16-41.5 36	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: Test results are for year 2022 unless otherwise noted. All tests are not required annually.

Total Organic Carbon – The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removed was measured each Month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violation Section.

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. Westernport 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 Westernport at 301-616-7860. 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.

Information Statement: Turbidity is the measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

PFAS – or 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.
Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. Our water system was not tested for PFAS in 2022. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The Maryland Rural Water Association's State Circuit Rider assisted with the completion of this report.

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 if you have questions.