

2004 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF CLEAR SPRING WATER SYSTEM

Is my water safe?

Last year, the Clear Spring Water System was tested for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Results of this testing met the levels allowed by EPA. However, the system was in violation of the filtration requirement and a chlorination treatment technique. The filtration requirement for this system went into effect October 2003 and the system came into compliance with this requirement May 5, 2005. Additional information regarding this violation can be found under Where does my water come from and Violations. The chlorination treatment technique violation occurred in December of 2004 and was corrected immediately. Additional information can be found under the Violation section of this report. The Town of Clear Spring and the Washington County Department of Water Quality are committed to providing you with information on your water supply and taking the necessary actions to supply water in compliance with all drinking water health standards.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Clear Spring Water System has utilized three wells as its water source since 2001. In February 2000, the Maryland Department of the Environment notified the Town of Clear Spring that the springs were under the direct influence of surface water and that the wells required additional evaluation prior to final determination as to whether or not they were under the direct influence of surface water. In response to this notification, the Town of Clear Spring took the springs out of service in May 2000; conducted evaluation of the wells and has completed rehabilitation of the three wells. In April 2002, MDE determined that despite the rehabilitation efforts, the wells are under the direct influence of surface water and has required the Town of Clear Spring to comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTPR) by October 2003. The Town has installed a water filtration facility, which went into operation on May 5, 2005. The water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes and receives filtration prior to entering the distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment has developed and EPA has approved its plan for the development of Source Water Assessments. MDE plans to complete the assessment process in 2005 for the Clear Spring Water System. We will continue to keep you updated on the status of the Assessment Plan in this section of the report.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range Low High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.58	NA	2004	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	6.54	NA	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU) The highest single measurement was 0.6. Any measurement in excess of 5 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.	NA	1	0.6	NA	2004	No	Soil runoff
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2	NA	2003	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.15	2002	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2002	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reported Level</u>	<u>Range Low High</u>
Sulfate (ppm)	72	4.9 72
Unit Descriptions		
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>	
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)	
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)	
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)	
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.	
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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Violations

The Town of Clear Spring was required to install filtration by October 2003 and was in violation of the filtration requirement from October 2003 until May 5, 2005. On May 5, 2005, the filtration plant was put into full operation and the system is in compliance with the filtration requirements.

In December of 2004, the system experienced a problem with the chlorine system, which resulted in a treatment technique violation. The problem was corrected immediately and the system returned to compliance.

Results of voluntary monitoring

Routine testing is completed on the Clear Spring Water System that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are listed in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

TABLE OF RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVE/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	6.9 to 7.5	Standard Unit
Chlorine	0.0 to 1.8	ppm
Turbidity	0.1 to 0.6	NTU
Chloride	10 to 12	ppm
Conductivity	258 to 303	uMho
Hardness	138 to 150	ppm
Total Alkalinity	132 to 140	ppm
Total Dissolved Solids	182 to 212	ppm

Results of radon monitoring

On June 27, 1997, the Maryland Department of the Environment tested Radon in the Clear Spring Water System. The results of this testing was 80 pCi/L. Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air-containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

What Levels of Radon in my water should I be concerned about?

There are currently no federally enforced drinking water standards for Radon. EPA is proposing to regulate radon in drinking water from community water supplies (water systems that serve 25 or more year-round residents). EPA proposed the rule in October 1999 and plans to finalize it in December 2004.

EPA is proposing to require community water suppliers to provide water with radon levels no higher than 4,000 pCi/L, which contributes about 0.4 pCi/L to the air in your home. This requirement assumes that the State is also taking action to reduce levels in indoor air by developing EPA approved enhanced State radon indoor air programs. (Called Multimedia Mitigation Programs). This is because most of the Radon you breathe comes from the soil under your home. This option gives the States flexibility to focus on the greatest problems. By encouraging the public to fix radon in indoor air problems and homes that keep radon from entering.

For States that choose not to develop enhanced indoor programs, community water systems in that State will be required to reduce radon in drinking water to 300 pCi/L. This amount contributes 0.03 pCi/L of radon in the air of your home. Even if a State does not develop enhanced indoor air program, water systems may choose to develop their own local indoor radon program and meet a radon standard for drinking water of 4,000 pCi/L.

EPA has set up this option, under the framework specified in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, so that the overall risks from exposure to radon, both through air and water are reduced.

**For more information contact:
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