

# 1999 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SHARPSBURG WATER SYSTEM

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Washington County Water and Sewer Department vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

## **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 water supply for the Sharpsburg Water System comes from the Potomac River, a surface water source. This water is processed through the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Plant provides filtration, chlorination, pH adjustment and fluoridation of the water prior to entering the distribution system.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

Maryland Department of the Environment is currently working with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program for the development and completion of Source Water Assessments. We will continue to keep you updated on the development of this assessment in this section of the Water Quality 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **How can I get involved?**

The Washington County Water and Sewer Department has an Advisory Board that meets on a monthly basis. For information on attending one of these meetings, please contact our main office at (301) 791-3083.

## **Results of voluntary monitoring**

The Washington County Water and Sewer Department conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results for 1999 are located in the Table of Test Results of Customer Interest.

# 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.

**Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

- 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:** 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:** Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- AL:** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2	0 1.2	----	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.003	NA	05/21/1997	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppb)	MNR	MNR	16300	NA	05/12/1999	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (Conventional or Direct Filtration) (NTU (in 95% of samples/month))	NA	TT<=0.5	0.6	NA	----	No	Soil runoff
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>							
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	0.21	NA 0.21	----	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	0.5	NA 0.5	----	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	MNR	MNR	3.3	NA	05/12/1999	No	
Chloroform (ppb)	MNR	MNR	9.6	NA	05/12/1999	No	
Sulfate (ppm)	MNR	MNR	80	NA	05/12/1999	No	

Contaminant(s) (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
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**Inorganic Contaminants**

Lead (ppb)	0	15	6	0		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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**Units Description:**

- NA: Not applicable  
 ND: Not detected  
 NR: Not reported  
 MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.  
 ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)  
 ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)  
 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

**TABLE OF TEST RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST**

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LEVEL / RANGE DETECTED</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASUREMENT</b>
pH	7.0 TO 8.4	Standard Unit
Chlorine	1.2. TO 2.9	ppm
Hardness	77 TO 205	ppm
Alkalinity	50 TO 168	ppm

For more information on the Washington County Water and Sewer Department, please visit our web site at [www.wc-link.org/wcwsd](http://www.wc-link.org/wcwsd)

For more information contact:

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