

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008
TOWN OF PERRYVILLE
June, 2009
PWID# 0070018

We're pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. In order to ensure water quality, the State and EPA require that the water be tested and the results reported on a regular basis. The Town has met these requirements. Therefore, the Town wants you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

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) and the Cecil County Public Library.

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).

The Town of Perryville's Susquehanna Filtration Plant routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the periods of January 1st to December 31, 2007. 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 is 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.

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

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 (MCL) - 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 (MCLG) - 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 (Average)	N	0.012	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters (2001)	N	3	pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (2001)	N	1	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	.95	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	<0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	N	0.04	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (distribution) (2006)	N	0.175	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	Y	89.2 average	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 Halocetic Acids (Distribution)	N	40.4 average	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	N	15.2	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural products
Sulfate	N	18.3	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural products
Chloroform	N	10.5	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	N	1.9	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	N	5.1	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: All test results are for 2008 unless otherwise noted. Not all contaminants are required to be tested for annually.

You have been receiving the following **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER** in your most recent water bill. **The Town of Perryville has levels of disinfection by-products above the drinking water standards.**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers you have the right to know what is happening, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The Town of Perryville is required to routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results show that Perryville's system exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for one type of a disinfection by-product. The MCL for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) is 80 parts per billion (ppb). TTHMs are volatile organic chemicals that occur when chlorine is added to a drinking water source with natural occurring organic matter.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You do not need to use an alternate water supply (eg. Bottled water). However, if you have health concerns you should consult your health care professional.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL may over many years experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

We (The Town of Perryville) anticipate resolving this problem as soon as possible by additional chemical treatment and additional contaminant monitoring. The planned upgrades to the existing Water Treatment Plant should permanently correct this problem by removing the organic precursor matter in the water prior to the addition of a disinfectant (i.e. Chlorine). The treatment plant has been upgraded to a filter membrane system. The first two rounds of samples have indicated a measurable drop in TTHMs levels.

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. For 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.

MCLs 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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.

For more information about your water or this report, please contact Water Plant Operators at

410-378-3883.

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Perryville 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, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.