

Town of Lovettsville

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT - 2009

A Message from Mayor Elaine Walker:

Enclosed you will find the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Town of Lovettsville for the Calendar Year 2009. Once again, all of our water tests met or exceeded all Federal and State standards for drinking water for the year. Information about our wells is being provided to you in this report, as well as data pertaining to chemicals that were added and minerals that are present in our drinking water. No bacterium was detected in any of our wells. I am pleased to dedicate this excellent report to the operators of our water system. We are privileged to have Loudoun Water (formerly known as Loudoun County Sanitation Authority) operate our Water System and our Wastewater Treatment Facility, and we continue to thank them for their outstanding service to the Town.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is authorized by Congress to enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, by regulating water systems for public health protection and by requiring the establishment of water standards. The 1996 Amendments require all water suppliers to issue a Water Quality Report, known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), to our water consumers on an annual basis. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has the responsibility for enforcing the Federal Water Quality Standards in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Town of Lovettsville owns all of the wells, treatment and storage facilities, and distribution lines which supplies water to your residence or business. The Town is fortunate to have had proffers from the development communities that enhanced our earlier water system, I would be happy to share the history of the old and the new wells and storage facilities with you.

Unrelated to the Drinking Water Quality Report, I am enclosing our Residential Guide to the Proper Treatment and Disposal of Fats, Oils, and Grease. We are required by the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a plan for proper treatment and disposal of grease. This plan must be enacted by the Town Government and be sent to DEQ for their approval. Grease traps are already required for businesses, organizations and institutions that provide food service.

If you should have any questions regarding this report, or if you wish additional information, please contact our Operators at the numbers listed in this report. If you would care to discuss this CCR or the FOG brochure, please call me or our Town Manager, Keith Markel at (540) 822-5788.

Thank you for your time and attention to the CCR for 2009 and the Residential Guide to the Proper Treatment and Disposal of Fats, Oils, and Grease.

Is my water safe?

Yes, again for 2009 the Town's drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Loudoun Water vigilantly safeguards the Town's water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has not 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Town of Lovettsville pumps water from six active wells, all located within its corporate limits. The Town has one 75,000 gallon elevated storage tank, one 185,000 gallon ground storage tank, and one 150,000 gallon ground storage tank.

Your drinking water is treated by greensand filtration. Greensand filtration is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water such as iron and manganese. Sodium Hypochlorite and Potassium Permanganate are also in the iron and manganese removal process. In July 2004, three new greensand filters were placed in service replacing the existing filters. In December 2005, two more greensand filters were also placed in service at the Kingsridge site. In October 2007, two more greensand filters were placed in service at the Retirement Village site.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment of our water system was conducted by the Virginia Department of Health several years ago. As with all wells, the Town's water supply was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years. The report is available by contacting your water system representative at the phone numbers and address given elsewhere in this report.

Over the past several years Lovettsville has been the recipient of state grant money to assist in our proactive wellhead protection effort. Over a dozen wells have been voluntarily abandoned by the owners and professionally sealed by licensed contractors at no cost to the property owner. By sealing unused wells and limiting threatening land uses near the Town's well facilities, Lovettsville has worked hard to protect our groundwater supply.

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.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions about this report, or if you want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Keith Markel, Town Manager (540) 822-5788
J. Scott Englund, Senior Operator, Loudoun Water (540) 822-4536
Chris Keplinger, Operator, Loudoun Water (540) 822-4536

Town Council Meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Lovettsville Town Office.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

Remember to teach your children about water conservation to ensure future generations use water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next quarter's water bill! Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Additional Information for 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 in older houses. Town of Lovettsville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components within your home. If you have an older home that you feel may have lead in the plumbing system there are a few simple steps you can take to reduce your risk. 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.2	0.8	1.2	2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	26	1	26	2007	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0956	ND	0.956	2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.244	0.131	0.244	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	0.0061	ND	0.0061	2008	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0	ND	0	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0	ND	0	2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0	ND	0	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2009	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.1	ND	2.1	2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	6.5	4.1	6.5	2008	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0	ND	0	2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

<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	0.137	2009	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.0047	2009	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
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)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
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

For more information please contact:

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