

# **Town of Lovettsville**

## **Annual Drinking Water Report for 2015**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2015 is designed to inform you about the quality of your drinking water as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report contains details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the federal and state standards administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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 THE TOWN'S WATER COME FROM AND HOW IS IT TREATED?**

The Town of Lovettsville produces drinking water from four groundwater wells located within the Town limits. Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water.

## **PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY**

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment in 2002. Like most wells, the Town's wells were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report is available by contacting the Town of Lovettsville at (540) 822-5788.

Protecting our water supply is everyone's responsibility. You can help do your part by following these simple recommendations:

- 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.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to the Town's public sewer system.
- Dispose of chemicals, paints, fuels and pesticides properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center. For a schedule of hazardous material collection dates contact the Loudoun County Department of Solid Waste Management at 703-777-0100.

## **PREVENTING CROSS CONNECTIONS**

Cross-connections are unprotected or improper connections to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. The Town is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact the Town so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary. High risk items include: boiler/radiant heater (water heaters not included), underground lawn sprinkler system, and anything that has an automatic water fill such as some decorative ponds, watering troughs, and pools or hot tubs.

## **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

Please contact the Town of Lovettsville Town Office at (540)822-5788.

## **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. The Town of Lovettsville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in individual homes and businesses. 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>.

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

## **Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Town of Lovettsville**

### **What happened?**

On 12/28/2015 we became aware that our system recently failed to collect the correct number of drinking water samples. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the summer of 2015 we failed to monitor for disinfection byproducts (DBPs) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Previous years measurements for DBP's during this period have never exceeded the drinking water standard and since there were no changes in the quality of the water or our treatment methods, it is unlikely that a measurement would have exceeded the standard.

We are required to take one sample annually for TTHM's and HAA5's during the third quarter of the year. In August 2015, we failed to collect this sample. After speaking with VDH it was determined the best plan was to continue the routine sampling in summer 2016. Resampling in the winter months would produce results that were not representative of our water.

### **What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

### **What is being done?**

We improved the design of our monitoring schedule on 01/15/2016 making it easier to identify monitoring requirements throughout the year, and help ensure that samples are not missed in the future.

# Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	19.3	12.1	19.3	2014	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.26	0.70	2.20	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Chemical and Radiological Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate-nitrite	10	10	ND	ND	ND	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.049	0.04	0.049	2013	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.21	0.20	0.21	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	7.1	ND	7.1	2013	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	10.1	ND	10.1	2013	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

Microbiological Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	No. of Samples Indicating Presence of Bacteria		Violation (Y/N)	Sampling Year	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1 positive monthly sample	1		N	2015	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Action Level Detected	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.204	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	4.7	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**DEFINITIONS:**

The following definitions are provided to help you better understand the various terms and abbreviations found in this report.

*ppm* – part per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

*ppb* – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

*pCi/L* – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

*positive samples/month* – Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive

*NA* – not applicable

*ND* – not detected

*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.

*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* – 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.

**For more information please contact:**

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