TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

2015 WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Volume VI, May 2016 DE0000592

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The water supply for the Town of Georgetown is groundwater pumped from our wells that draw from the Columbia and Manokin Aquifers. The Town operates and maintains six groundwater wells (4 in the Columbia, 2 in the Manokin) throughout the Town.

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiente informacion muy importante sobre su aqua beber. Traduzcalo o hable cont alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in conjunction with the Division of Public Health has conducted a source water assessment. If you are interested in reviewing the assessment, please contact the Town Hall at 302-856-7391 regarding its availability and how to obtain a copy. You may also review this at http://www.delawaresourcewater.org It provides information such as potential sources of contamination. Overall, Georgetown Water has a moderate susceptibility to nutrients, a moderate susceptibility to pathogens, a very high susceptibility to petroleum hydrocarbons, a moderate susceptibility to pesticides, a moderate susceptibility to PCBs, a very high susceptibility to other organic compounds, a moderate susceptibility to metals and, a moderate susceptibility to other inorganic compounds.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

The Town of Georgetown is pleased to be your water service provider and the Town Council welcomes your input on how we can provide the safest drinking water supply to our citizens. The Town Council meets at the Town Hall, 39 The Circle, Georgetown, Delaware on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is happy and willing to accommodate your comments. In addition, we are pleased to give guided tours of our water system to our customers during our normal business hours. Should you wish to schedule a tour or have any additional questions or comments regarding this report or your water quality, please feel free to contact **Bill Bradley at 302-856-6045**. There were few errors in last year's CCR such as missing SWA web site and a statement for using results older than one year.

Public Health, Office of Drinking Water routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, **2015.** 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 constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents 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:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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.

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

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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						
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	1 Positive samples in August		0	1 Positive a month **OR** presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants						
11. Barium	N	0.101	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	1 0.9-1	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
14. Chromium	N	1.9	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
17. Fluoride	N	1.14 0.78-1.14	ppm	0.8 -1.2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Manganese	N	2.5	ppb	50	50	Naturally-occurring element that can be found ubiquitously in the air, soil, and water
20. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	6.3 1.3-6.3	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	2.4	ppb	n/a	100	Naturally occurring
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
70. Tetrachloroethylene	N	1	ppb	0	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
75. TTHM[3] [Total trihalomethanes]	N	5.57	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Secondary Standards						
80. Sodium (Na)	N	33.35 25.7-41	ppm	0		
81. Alkalinity (Alk)	N	58.4 39.6-77.2	ppm			
82. pH	N	6.6	ppm		6.5 – 8.5	
83. Chloride (Cl)	N	13.29 12.1-14.9	ppm		250	
84. Hardness	N	15.3	ppm			
90. Sulfate	N	4.39 2-10.6	ppm			

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	MCLG	Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
15. Copper	N	0.16 (2014)	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

*** All other contaminants were in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.**

Inorganic Contaminants:
(20) Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to very significantly from year to year. Some of our date [e.g. for Organic Contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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. Town of Georgetown 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 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 (1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What does this mean?
As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is drinkable at these levels.

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. In order to insure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife.
2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals can be naturally[occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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 this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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).

Please call our office if you have questions.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. The Town of Georgetown works around the clock to provide quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Our water is a community resource that deserves constant attention and protection. Your involvement is critical in maintaining a safe and affordable water system.

Quality On Tap!
Our Commitment Our Profession

H_2Oh!
Tapping Into Good Health