Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2015
Pocomoke City, Maryland
April 2016
PWSID 0230006

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality 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.

Our water source is the Pocomoke Aquifer which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The depth of our wells are approximately 140 feet. The earth between the surface and this underground aquifer helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into our water distribution system.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

We have a source water protection 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) or in the Worcester 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).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael T. Phillips at (410) 957-3311. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings. Please call (410) 957-1333 to confirm actual dates and times.

The City of Pocomoke routinely monitors for contaminants 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 contaminants. It's 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.

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 - 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 - 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
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (2014)	N	.0029	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Distribution) (2014)	N	0.231	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Distribution) (2014)	N	3.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	1	ppm	4	4	Water Additive used to control microbes
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2014)	N	5	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	< 2.0	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (2014)	N	0.161	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) (2015) [Total trihalomethanes] Locational Running Annual Average	N	28.9-103.3 81	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (Distribution) (2015) Locational Running Annual Average	N	15.94-32.3 24	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters (2008)	N	5	pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (2008)	N	2	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (226 & 228) (2008)	N	< 2	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	N	10.1	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	N	15.6	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of disinfection
Dibromochloromethane	N	13.0	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of disinfection
Sodium (2014)	N	61.8	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromoform) (2014)	N	1.7	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water Chlorination

Note: Test results are for 2015 unless otherwise noted; All contaminants do not require annual testing; these are the most recent available results.

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. 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.

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 City of Pocomoke 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, testing 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.

NOTE: As can be seen by results listed in the preceding tables, lead, which is tested for on a triennial basis (every 3 years) in Pocomoke City in accordance with Federal and State regulations, was detected in our most recent samples which were collected and tested in 2014 but did not exceed the MCL level.

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.

Our system received a violation for TTHM's and exceeded the MCL for that contaminate.. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver, or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer."

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.

Please call our office if you have questions. **Pocomoke City Water Department – 410-957-2521**