

Drinking Water Quality Report 2015

Town of Indian Head

April, 2016

PWSID # 0080020

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Drinking 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. Our water source is 3 wells which draw from the Patapsco (Well 3 & 4) and Patuxent (Well 6) Aquifers.

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).

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.

The Town of Indian Head routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring. In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms.

Parts per million (ppm) - one part per million corresponds to one ounce in 7350 gallons of water.

Parts per billion (ppb) - one part per billion corresponds to one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

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

Action Level Goal (ALG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Action Level (AL) - 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.

REGULATED RESULTS						
Location	Contaminant (Date Sampled)	Level Detected	Unit Measure ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Distribution System	Copper (December 2014)	.099	ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	Total Trihalomethanes (August 2015)	2.2	ppb		80	Byproduct of disinfection
	Chlorine (Yearly Average)	.9	ppb	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Well 3 (Patapsco)	Fluoride (April 2015)	1.5	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Barium (April 2013)	.01	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Well 4 (Patapsco)	Fluoride (April 2015)	.82	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Gross Alpha (June 2014)	6.6	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Well 6R (Patuxent)	Fluoride (April 2015)	.76	ppm	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Radium 228 (October 2012)	1.1	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha(Short) (April 2012)	4.1	pCi/L	0	15	Decay of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha (October 2012)	3.7	pCi/L	0	15	Decay of natural deposits
	Gross Beta (October 2012)	4.2	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural deposits
UNREGULATED RESULTS						
Well 3 (Patapsco)	Sodium (April 2013)	110	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Well 4 (Patapsco)	Sodium (April 2013)	45	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Chloromethane (February 2010)	1.9	ppb	N/A	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
	Chloroethane (February 2010)	1	ppb	N/A	N/A	Man-made compound
Well 6R (Patuxent)	Sodium (April 2014)	64	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
	Chloroethane (June 2014)	.6	ppb	N/A	N/A	Man-made compound
	Radon-222 (February 2012)	206	pCi/L	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

“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 Indian Head 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>.”

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. (You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA’s Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

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 contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these 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. 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 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We, at the Town of Indian Head, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Town Hall at (301) 743-5511. 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 meetings. Scheduled Public meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Village Green Pavilion, beginning at 7:30 pm.