

# ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report***

## **Virginia American Water, Eastern District Potomac and Westmoreland Shores**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year **2006** is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, please contact: J. Creel, Network Supervisor  
Virginia American Water, Eastern District  
621 Oldhams Road  
Warsaw, VA 22572

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 J. Creel, Network Supervisor of Virginia American Water, Eastern District.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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/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).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, stream, 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. 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 operations, and wildlife. (2) 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. (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems. (5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that 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 establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **SOURCE and TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The source of your drinking water is groundwater. All wells draw water from the Potomac aquifer. The only treatment provided is chlorination. Chlorine is added for disinfection and to prevent bacteriological growth in the distribution system.

As a first step toward protection of our sources of drinking water, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) evaluated the susceptibility of Virginia's water supplies to contamination. Contamination sources and pathways were reviewed using maps, known & observed activities, water quality data and information about the water source. Using criteria developed by the State in its EPA-approved Source Water Assessment Programs, it was determined that, on a relative basis, all four wells are of high susceptibility to contamination. This does not mean that your drinking water is currently unsafe. Your current water quality is described in the rest of this report. A copy of the source water assessment report is available by contacting J. Creel at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The tables show the results of our monitoring. In the table and elsewhere in this report 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:

*Non-detects (ND) - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant 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.*

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.*

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

*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, or MCL - 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, or MCLG - 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.*

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant level (MRDL) – 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.*

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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.*

*millirems per year ( mrem/year ) - The measure of radiation absorbed by the body.*

## **WATER QUALITY RESULTS**

### **I. Lead and Copper Contaminants**

Contaminant	Units of Measurement	Action level	MCLG	Results of samples for the 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Action Level Exceedance (Y/N)	Month of Sampling	# of Sampling Sites Exceeding Action level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead	ppb	15	0	3.4	N	7, 8/06	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.187	N	7, 8/06	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

### **II. Other Chemical and Radiological Contaminants**

Contaminant	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range of Detection at Sampling Points	Date of Samples	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	N/A	80	3	N	2-3	8/17/04	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Xylenes	ppm	10	10	0.0024	N	ND-0.0024	3/23/06	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories.
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	2	N	ND-2	2/9/04	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production wastes.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	2.03	N	1.42-2.03	2/9/04	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Gross Alpha	pCi/l	0	15	1.1	N	ND-1.1	2/27/01 4/23/01 6/27/01	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	pCi/L	0	5	1.4	N	ND-1.4	2/27/01 4/23/01 6/27/01	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta (1)	pCi/l	0	50	8.9	N	2.0-8.9	2/27/01 4/23/01 6/27/01	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

(1) The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

### **III. Disinfectants – Distribution System**

Disinfectant	Units of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Detected (Annual Average)	Violation (Y/N)	Range of Detection at Sampling Points	Sampling Year	Typical Source
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.66	N	0.02-1.61	2006	Water additive used to control microbes

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The table lists only those contaminants that had

some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of the contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data in the tables above, though accurate, may be more than one year old.

**Other Drinking Water Constituents You May Be Interested In Are As Follows:**

Well Name	Station No.	Sample Collection Date	Sodium Concentration	Comment
Potomac Shores Well No. 1A	4	2/9/04	118 ppm	These concentrations exceed the recommended maximum contaminant level of 20 ppm for persons on a "strict" sodium diet.
Potomac Shores Well No. 2A	5	2/9/04	10.2 ppm	
Westmoreland Shores Well No. 1A	3	2/9/04	99.7 ppm	
Westmoreland Shores Well No. 2A	2	2/9/04	109 ppm	

MCL's are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

**VIOLATION INFORMATION**

Your water system did not have any violations during the year.

This Drinking Water Quality Report was prepared by: Virginia American Water, Eastern District  
1-800-452-6863