2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Town of Saltville PWSID: 1173723

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2024 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:

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:

The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows:

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (i) microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (ii) 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; (iii) pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; (iv) 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; (v) 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. 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 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 who are 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCES and TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Town of Saltville gets its water from two different sources. These include the Cardwell Town Well, which is located in the Poor Valley area and the No. 10 Well, which is located in the Broady Bottom area. The Cardwell Town Well is approximately 450 feet deep and draws groundwater from the Tonoloway Limestone aquifer. The No. 10 Well is approximately 1,050 feet deep and draws groundwater from the Honaker Formation aquifer. Treatment of raw water from these sources consists of chlorination and fluoridation to make the water safe to drink.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system during 2021. The two well sources were determined to be of highly susceptible to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of Maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last 5 years. The report is available by contacting the Saltville Town Office 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 table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. 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:

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 Goal or MRDLG: the level of 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

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.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT) - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Level 1 assessment - a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 assessment - a very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli PMCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.61	N	0.267 – 1.61	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.70	N	0.62 – 0.70	10/10/2022	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.131	N	0.081 – 0.131	10/10/2022	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	0.7	N	0.5 - 0.7	2020 & 2023	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	2.6	N	ND – 2.6	2020 & 2023	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.53	N	1.23 – 2.0	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	Not Detected	N	Not Detected	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	38	N	19-58	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Date of Sampling	Range	# of Sampling Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	Not Detected	2024	Not Detected	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	1.36 mg/L	2024	0.042-1.40 mg/L	2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Monitoring Results for Sodium (Unregulated-No Limits Designated)			
Level Detected (unit)	Sample Date	Typical Source	Guidance
7.49 (mg/L) Range: 4.42 – 7.49 mg/L	10/10/2022	Naturally Occuring; Addition of treatment chemicals/processes	For individuals on a very low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking-water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. Should you have a health concern, contact your health care provider.

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

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 – Did any PMCL or TT violation occur during the year? (X) Yes ( ) No

During the January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024, Lead & Copper Monitoring period, the Town of Saltville exceeded the (MCL) action level of 1.3 mg/L for Copper. The 90th Percentile Copper detect was 1.36 mg/L.

VIOLATION INFORMATION – Did any monitoring, reporting, or other violations occur during the year? (X) Yes ( ) No

During the 1st calendar quarter of 2024, the Town of Saltville was issued a Failure to Monitor Source Water (MPN) violation. A source water sample was not submitted for analysis from the Cardwell Town Well or Well No. 10.

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 Saltville 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 two 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 (800-426-4791). You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Saltville. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATERWORKS

Service Line Inventory

The Town of Saltville has completed the required Lead Service Line Inventory and submitted the results to the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water. Based on customer self-identification, historical records and field investigation, we have determined that there are non-lead service lines in the system, 0 Galvanized Service Lines needing replacement and 5 unknown materials in the system. These will be included in our replacement plan. We thank you for your help and cooperation. The hard copy full inventory is available at the Town Office.

Health Effects Information

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.