2014 Water Quality Report for the Town of Gordonsville

PWSID 6137400

****Please note that the Town will not mail this report to individual water customers; however, it is available on the Town's website and copies are available upon request****

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because we want you to be informed about the quality of your drinking water.

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

French (Francais)

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quequ'un qui le comprend bien.

Where does my water come from?

Our water source is the Rapidan River. The water is treated by the Town of Orange, which, in turn, sells the water to the Rapidan Service Authority, which pumps it to the Town of Gordonsville. The Town of Gordonsville then takes the water and distributes it to you through a distribution system.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Gordonsville vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. In fact, the Town of Orange Water Treatment Plant, through which Gordonsville's water is processed, received the 2014 Bronze Performance Award in Water Treatment Plant Operations for Excellence in Filtration and Clarification from the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of the Town of Orange water system during 2002. The source was determined to be of high susceptibility 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, and 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 Town Manager of the Town of Orange at 540-672-5005.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 such as:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- 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; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and
- 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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Town of Gordonsville 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Explanation

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. A minimum TOC removal ratio of 1.0 is required. If the annual average Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is 1.0 or greater, the water system is in compliance. The removal ratio reported by the Town of Orange for 2013 is 1.4.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Crypto, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Crypto may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants, small children and elderly are at a greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and may be spread through means other than drinking water.

The Town of Orange Water Treatment Plant has completed 2 years of testing our source water for Cryptosporidium before any type of treatment occurs, in compliance with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). According to § 141.701 (a) (4) of the LT2, the Town of Orange Water Treatment Plant began monitoring for Cryptosporidium on April 5, 2010 and continued until March 5, 2012.
* No Cryptosporidium was detected during testing.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact our Department of Public Works at (540) 832-2233 so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

How can I get more information?

If you have questions regarding your drinking water please visit the Town of Gordonsville office at 112 S. Main Street, Gordonsville, Virginia 22942, or call us at (540) 832-2233. You may also reach us via the internet at http://www.townofgordonsville.org.

Do you have questions regarding waste water or sewage treatment?

Treatment of waste water or sewage is provided by the Rapidan Service Authority and not the Town of Gordonsville. **If you have questions regarding wastewater or sewage treatment, or if you wish to report a problem with sewer, please contact the Rapidan Service Authority at (800) 468-1049.**

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.60	1.04	1.98	2014	No	Chlorine is added at the water plant for the purpose of disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	43	28	57	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	46	26	70	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	1.46	NA	NA	2014	No	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.89	0.72	1.04	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.017	NA	NA	2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.11	NA	NA	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100%	NA	NA	2014	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.099 NTU as measured on December 23, 2014. With conventional filtration, the turbidity level of representative samples of a system's combined filtered water must at no time exceed 1.0 NTU.								
Radiological Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	1.2	NA	NA	2012	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Lead & Copper (Consumer Tap Samples)							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.027	2012	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
For more information please contact:	

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