

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2015

The Town of Oxford, Maryland

The Commissioners of Oxford are pleased to present this year's *Annual Drinking Water 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.

The source of our drinking water is the Aquia Aquifer, which lies approximately 500 feet below the earth's surface. An aquifer is a sort of underground river, which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The earth between surface sources of contamination and this underground river helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into your water distribution system.

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 & components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Oxford 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 and 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>.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. On August 17, 2009 the Town of Oxford went online with a new arsenic reduction system. The Town of Oxford is required quarterly monitoring for arsenic. We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water.

Health effects statement for fluoride levels, The 2015 CCR includes secondary maximum containment levels for fluoride. In low concentrations, naturally occurring fluoride has limited impacts on health. However, in elevated levels, fluoride has moderate health impacts for some people. The Town of Oxford monitors the fluoride levels in its water to stay within compliance of EPA guidelines. The Town of Oxford's fluoride levels are at 2.31 milligrams per liter for our well #2 and 2.32 milligrams per liter for our well #3 well below the EPA's 4.0 milligrams per liter mandate. The results do exceed the secondary maximum containment level of 2.00 ppm as set forth in state and federal regulations. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease including pain & tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in the water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/ or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

The Town of Oxford discontinued the use of well #1 on Tilghman Street in 2010. The well was capped & is being used as a monitoring well for USGS for aquifer study's only.

The following report is provided in compliance with federal regulations and will be provided annually. This report outlines the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Oxford Commissioners Office at 410-226-5122. 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 town meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, beginning at 6:00 PM, at the Oxford Community Services Building which is located at 101 Market Street in Oxford.

The Town of Oxford's Public Works Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables on the following pages show the results of our monitoring.

In this report, 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:

Definitions

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, a single penny in \$10,000, or 1 inch in 16 miles.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter(ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, a single penny in \$10,000,000, or 1 inch in 16,000 miles

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.

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. Note: The State of Maryland requires that community water systems apply a disinfectant and maintain a disinfectant residual throughout the distribution system. The Town of Oxford utilizes chlorine for this purpose.

| TEST RESULTS | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|------|--------|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Beta/photon emitters | | | pCi/l | 0 | 50 | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |
| Well 2 (2008) | N | 7 | | | | |
| Well 3 (2008) | N | 7 | | | | |
| Alpha emitters | | | pCi/l | 0 | 15 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Well 2 (2008) | N | 2 | | | | |
| Well 3 (2008) | N | 2 | | | | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Arsenic | | | ppb | n/a | .010 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| 2015 Well 2(average) | N | .007 | | | | |
| 2015 Well 3 (average) | N | .007 | | | | |
| Copper (Distribution) | N | 0.07 | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Fluoride 2015 | | | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Well 2 | N | 2.31 | | | | |
| Well 3 | N | 2.32 | | | | |
| Lead (Distribution) | N | 0.0 | ppb | 0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| Antimony Well 2 | N | 2 | ppb | 6 | 6 | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder |
| Antimony Well 3 | N | 2 | | | | |
| Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides | | | | | | |
| Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate | N | 3.5 | ppb | 0 | 6 | Discharge from rubber and chemical factories |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes] | N | 0.0 | ppb | 0 | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Regulated Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Chloroform (well 2) (2009) | N | 0.5 | ppb | N/A | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Bromoform (well 2) (2009) | N | 0.5 | ppb | N/A | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Bromodichloromethane (well 2) (2009) | N | 0.5 | ppb | N/A | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|----------------|-----|------------|---|
| Dibromochloromethane (well 2) (2009) | N | 0.5 | ppb | N/A | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Disinfectant Residual (range) | | 0.1 – 2.7 | ppm | | 4.0 (MRDL) | |
| pH (range) | | 7.9 – 8.6 | Standard units | | N/A | |
| Coliform Bacteria | N | 1 | ppb | 0 | 1 | Naturally present in the Environment |

Note: Test results are for CY 2015 unless otherwise noted. All contaminants are not required to be tested for annually.

Health Effects Statement for Arsenic Levels Exceeding 10 ppb: Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 or visiting the EPA Drinking Water Website @ www.epa.gov/safewater.** Information related to drinking water can also be obtained at the Maryland Department of Environment website at www.mde.state.md.us

The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep our water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption. Our Public Works Department staff consists of six full time employees. Five who are state certified water system operators and have a combined experience of more than 68 years. Each year our staff attends required state approved continuing education in an effort to keep up-to-date with the latest techniques in water treatment and distribution. Our mission is to provide you with a continuous supply of the best possible quality water. In order to do this, we maintain a professional and qualified staff.

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 must set our water rates so that the system pays for itself without subsidy from property tax revenues.

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 of 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).

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with safe, quality water this year. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

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Note: Copies of previous year’s reports are still available. To request a copy, call 410-226-5122.

Commissioners of Oxford
 May 2016