

## *2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

*Bath County Service Authority  
Thomastown, Crowdertown, Switchback*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2020 is designed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water quality. The Bath County Service Authority is committed to providing 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 meets all state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Office of Drinking Water.

If you have questions about this report, 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:

Mr. Gene Q. Phillips, Bath County Service Authority at 540- 839-7251

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes, 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 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 agriculture, 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 result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order 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.

Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

All 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).

### **SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Your drinking water is purchased from the Virginia Hot Springs Water Company per a bulk water agreement. Water is distributed throughout the Thomastown, Crowdertown, Switchback area through ductile iron and plastic water pipe. The distribution system consists of one thousand ten (1,010) feet of two-inch waterline, one thousand seven hundred twenty (1,720) feet of four-inch waterline, three hundred (300) feet of six-inch waterline, five thousand one hundred twenty (5,120) feet of eight-inch waterline, and ten fire hydrants. There are also three air release valves, and two mainline pressure-reducing stations.

The Virginia Hot Springs Inc. provides treatment by adding chlorine.

Some additional information concerning the well:

The Hot Springs Water Company utilizes springs located on the West side of Warm Springs Mountain. They have more than fifty (50) springs. Chapman Spring and Cascade Springs produce the majority of their potable water. We enclosed the annual drinking water report from the Virginia Hot Springs Water Company for your information.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS**

Under a new program being developed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), a detailed source water assessment will be conducted within the next few years to better protect our water sources. After the assessment is conducted, we will provide you with information about potential sources of contamination and measures to reduce or eliminate the sources of contamination.

## QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is routinely monitored according to Federal and State Regulations for a variety of contaminants. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The results in the table are from testing completed in 2018, and 2020. 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, though accurate, is more than one year old.

### DEFINITIONS

In these tables 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:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent 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.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*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)* - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - (mandatory language) 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* - (mandatory language) 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.

*Variances & Exemptions (V&E)* - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### Lead Contaminants

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. We are 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>.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS

<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found / Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Turbidity NTU	NA	TT=0.3 NTU	MAX - 0.024 NTU	No	Daily 2020	Soil runoff
		Lowest monthly percent meeting <0.3 NTU – 95 %	All monthly samples were < 0.3 NTU 100 % of the time  Homestead Water Quality			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Nitrate ppm	10	10	0.53  Homestead Water Quality	No	August 2020	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>						
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found / Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters pCi/L	0	15	0.4 Homestead Water Quality	No	October 2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium pCi/L	0	5	< 0.49 Homestead Water Quality	No	October 2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta pCi/L	0	50	< 0.58 Homestead Water Quality	No	October 2018	Decay of natural and man-made products
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>						
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found / Range	Exceedance	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead ppb	0	AL=15	5.4 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) None of the five samples collected exceeded the AL.	No	September 2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.261 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) None of the five samples collected exceeded the AL.	No	September 2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>						
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes) ppb	NA	80	23	No	August 2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (HAAs) ppb	NA	60	12	No	August 2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfectant Residual Contaminants</b>						
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found / Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine mg/l	4	4	0.37 to 0.58	No	Monthly 2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination

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.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (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 MCL's 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

We had no violations for the year 2020

This Drinking Water Quality Report was prepared by: The Bath County Service Authority Staff. Please call if you have any questions.