

**Town of Farmville - PWSID No. 5147170**  
**2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2009 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water meets all state and federal standards. 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 or 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 Town of Farmville Water Plant Supervisor, Kathy Gagen at 434-392-8774.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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).

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, 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:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **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 and provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## **SOURCE(S) AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Our water supply is from surface water from the Appomattox River. Treatment of the surface water consists of chemical addition, coagulation, flocculation, settling, filtration, fluoridation and chlorination. All these processes work together to remove the physical, chemical and biological contaminants to make the water safe for drinking.

A source water assessment of our system was conducted in 2002 by the Virginia Department of Health. The river source was determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination. This determination was based upon 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 five years. The report is available by contacting your water system representative at the phone number given elsewhere in this drinking water 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 this monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. 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 detectable, based on the limits of the analytical equipment used.

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

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.

**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 cloudiness 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 Contaminant Level (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 Residual Disinfection 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.

**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.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - Techniques employed by the Water Treatment Plant that are required by state and federal agencies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets MCLs at very stringent levels. 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant / unit of measurement	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants (ND)</b>						
Turbidity / NTU	N	Average- 0.030 Range 0.03 to 0.07	Daily	NA	TT = 1 NTU & TT = 95% of samples less than 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Radioactive contaminants</b>						
Radium (combined) (pCi/L)	N	0.6	10/14/09	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper (ppm)	N	0.35 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) Range:ND-0.47 Of 20 samples collected, none exceeded the AL	Aug. – Sept. 2009	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	N	Average= 0.99 Range =0.80 to 1.2	Daily	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	N	< 0.2 mg/l	10/21/09	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching septic tanks, sewage and natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	N	< 2 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) Range:< 2-13.3 Of 20 samples collected, none exceeded the AL	Aug. – Sept. 2009	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
Chlorine (ppm)	N	Average – 2.94 Range= 2.60 to 3.28	Tested Daily	MRDLG = 4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppm)	N	Average - 48 Range=18 - 70	Quarterly 2009	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppm)	N	Average =36 Range = 21-57	Quarterly 2009	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	N	The treated TOC removal ratio =1.0 Range = 1.0-1.71	Quarterly 2009	NA	TT- TOC Removal Ratio greater than or equal to 1 or treated water TOC less than or equal to 2 ppm	Naturally present in the source water

The results in this table are from testing done in 2007- 2009. However, the State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. We constantly monitor for various contaminants to meet all regulatory requirements. The table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Other contaminants were either not present or below the detection limits of the laboratory equipment. Some of our results, though representative, are more than one year old.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface waters throughout the United States. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicated the presence of one of these organisms in the raw/source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of cryptosporidium 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 are at a greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

**Additional information on 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 Farmville 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 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature 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>.

The Town of Farmville did not have any MCL or TT violations in the year 2009.