Lead & Drinking Water

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 Charles Town Utility Board 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Charles Town Utility Board
832 South George Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

CHARLES TOWN Utility Board

2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

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Why am I receiving this report?

In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the **Charles Town Utility Board** is providing its customers with this annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The information in this report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2014 or earlier if not on a yearly schedule.

If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact **Darrell Viands, Chief Operator, 304-725-3761.** If you have any further questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings held on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of every month at **8:30 AM** in the **Charles Town Utility Board office**, Charles Town, WV.

Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water source is surface water from the Shenandoah River.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment was conducted in 2003 by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH). The intake that supplies drinking water to the Charles Town Utility Board has a higher susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of surface water supplies and the potential contaminant sources identified within the area. This does not mean that this intake will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the surface water could be impacted by a potential contaminant source. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. The source water assessment report which contains more information is available for review or a copy will be provided to you at our office during business hours or from the WVBPH 304-558-2981.

Why must water be treated?

All drinking water contains various amounts and kinds of contaminants. Federal and state regulations establish limits, controls, and treatment practices to minimize these contaminants and to reduce any subsequent health effects.

Contaminants in Water

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. FDA regulations establish limits of 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 these 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).

The source of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic

wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2014 Test Results

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 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).

The Charles Town Utility Board routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables below show the results of our monitoring for contaminants.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity[1]	N	0.10 100% of monthly samples <0.3	NTU	0	TT	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	N	0.04	ppm	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium	N	0.02	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	0.40	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from aluminum and fertilizer plants
Nitrate	N	1.61	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	2.97 (Range: 0.2-3.4)	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
		200 N. West St. / Tuscawilla Plaza / Boundry St. / Moose Lodge				
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	26.41 / 29.34 / 30.72 / 29.85 Annual Avg. Range 16.65-38.73 / 16.65-38.73 / 16.65-38.73 / 16.65-38.73	ppb	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	29.57 / 29.65 / 27.50 / 28.58 Annual Avg. Range 18.92-60.26 / 18.92-60.26 / 0.2-3.4 / 18.92-60.26	ppb	NA	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium*	N	9.02	ppm	NE	20	Erosion of natural deposits

1. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness in drinking water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Monitoring Violation

All other water test results for the reporting year 2014 were all non-detectable. The Charles Town Water Department was issued a monitoring violation in 2014, information concerning this violation is contained within this mailing. The utility failed to take a required sample for volatile organic chemicals during the required sampling period. This sampling violation has been rectified as of this time and results have been submitted as required. It is important to note that this was a monitoring violation only, at no time were the maximum contaminant levels exceeded.

Definitions

Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the table or report:

- **MCLG -** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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 -** Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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 technique.
- **MRDLG -** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, or the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **MRDL -** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, or the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.
- **AL -** Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **TT -** Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations that may be found in the table:

- ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter
- ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in water
- NE - not established
- N/A - not applicable

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