

# **Annual Water Quality Report – WCPSA Mill Branch Water System (PWSID NO. 1195930)**

## **Is my water safe?**

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 (2020) water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **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).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Your water is purchased from the John Flannagan Water Authority, which processes water drawn from the John Flannagan Reservoir, a surface water supply.

## **Source Water Assessment and its Availability**

A source water assessment of the John Flannagan Reservoir was conducted in 2001 by the Virginia Department of Health. The reservoir 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, an inventory of known land use activities of concern. The report is available by contacting your water system representative at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

## **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:

**(1)** microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and (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 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.

### **How can I get involved?**

The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows:

**Date:** 2nd Tuesday of each month    **Time:** 6:00 PM    **Location:** Wise County PSA Office  
5622 Industrial Park Rd, Wise, VA 24293  
For additional information call (276) 679 -1520

### **Other Information - Sodium**

There is presently no established standard for sodium in drinking water. Water containing more than 270 ppm of sodium should not be used as drinking water by those persons whose physician has placed them on a moderately restricted sodium diet. Water containing more than 20 ppm should not be used as drinking water by those persons whose physician has placed them on a severely restricted sodium diet. For informational purposes, we wish to point out that the results of our most recent sampling (2020) indicate that your water has a sodium content of 13.7 ppm.

### **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. Wise County Regional Water Authority 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>.

### **Violation Information**

The Wise County PSA Mill Branch Water System received no violations for the year of 2020.

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## **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 | Detect In Your Water | Range       |                        | Sample Date | Violation  | Typical Source  |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|--|---|
|  |               |                  |                      | Low         | High                   |             |  |   |
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)   | 4             | 4                | 0.46                 | 0.2         | 0.4                    | 2020        | No   | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)  | NA            | 60               | 32                   | 3           | 48                     | 2020        | No   | By-product of drinking water chlorination   |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)  | NA            | 80               | 80                   | 66          | 86                     | 2020        | No   | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| Barium (ppm)   | 2             | 2                | .024                 | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Fluoride (ppm)   | 4             | 4                | .74                  | .39         | .74                    | 2020        | No   | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories             |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)   | 10            | 10               | .15                  | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Sodium (optional) (ppm)  | NA            | NA               | 13.7                 | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching. See more information about Sodium in the "Other Information" section elsewhere in this report. |
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| Turbidity (NTU)  | NA            | 0.3              | 0.06                 | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Soil runoff   |
| <b>100%</b> of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3; A TT violation occurs when <b>less than 95% of samples</b> measure below 0.3. The highest single measurement was 0.1. Any measurement in excess of 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state. |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)   | 0             | 50               | 0.6                  | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.                     |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)  | 0             | 5                | 0.4                  | NA          | NA                     | 2020        | No   | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Contaminants   | MCLG          | AL               | Your Water           | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL  | Typical Source   |   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>  |               |                  |                      |             |                        |             |  |   |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)   | 1.3           | 1.3              | .184                 | 2019        | 0                      | No          | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |   |

| Contaminants                               | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source  |
|--|------|----|------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|---|
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0    | 15 | 0          | 2019        | 0                      | No         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems;<br>Erosion of natural deposits |

| 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   |

**As you can see by this report, your drinking water exceeds all State and Federal requirements. The employees at the Wise County Regional Public Service Authority are committed to delivering safe and reliable drinking water to all of our customers. Any comments or questions concerning this report will be readily accepted.**

**For more information please contact:**

Contact Name: Bobby Reynolds  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3388  
Physical Address: 5622 Industrial Park Road  
Norton, VA 24273 Phone: (276) 762-0159

**IF YOU DESIRE A PAPER COPY OF THIS REPORT, YOU CAN OBTAIN ONE AT THE WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY'S OFFICE.**