PWSID: 014-0004

Town of Galena 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2015. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of the Town of Galena.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely complete Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Jay Janney at 410-729-8350, e-mail jjann@menv.com.**

For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, the Town Council generally meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Or contact:

Barbra A. Shaw, Town Clerk/ Treasurer

410-648-5151 ext 302

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The Town of Galena water works consists of two drilled wells in the Patapsco formation. Before the water enters the distribution network, chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into two elevated storage towers. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call **Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350**

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 microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

Town of Galena Treated Water Quality Report 2015

Definitions:

- **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.
- **Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- **Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.
- **pCi/l** - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- **ppb** - parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm** - parts per million or milligrams per liter

Special points of interest:

The water at the Town of Galena is tested for over 120 different compounds. **The Town of Galena's Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements.**

Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds 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's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

Important information Regarding Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 6.3 pCi/L which is below the 15 pCi/L MCL.

Town of Galena Treated Water Quality Report 2015

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Barium Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits	2000 ppb	54.9 ppb (Range: 51.7 - 54.9 ppb)	2000 ppb
Fluoride Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive which promotes strong teeth	4.0 ppm	1.81 ppm (Range: 0.12 - 1.81 ppm)	4.0 ppm
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Gross Alpha (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits * Please read page 2 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters	15 pCi/l	6.3 pCi/l*	0.0 pCi/l
Gross Beta - (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits *EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles ** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required	50 pCi/l*	2 pCi/l**	0.0 pCi/l
Regulated in the Distribution System	**Action Level**	**90th percentile**	**Ideal Goal**
Copper (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	1300 ppb	329 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead (2011 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 ppb
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb	2 ppb	n/a
Chlorine Typical Source of Contamination: Water additive to control microbes.	4 ppm	1.0 ppm (Range: 0.5 - 1.9 ppm)	4 ppm
Regulated in the Distribution System	**Highest Level Allowed MCL per Month**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Goal**
Total Coliform Source: Naturally present in the environment *Systems are allowed 1 positive result per month, MCL was not exceeded in 2015*	1	1*	0

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2015. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Lead Prevention

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 Galena 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 **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

Water Security is Everyone's Responsibility

Water system security continues to be an enormously important issue. If you notice suspicious activities in or around local water utilities, such as persons cutting or climbing facility fencing, loitering, tampering with equipment or other similar activities, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately by dialing 911.

Sources of Drinking Water

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Fluoride Information:

Federal regulations require that fluoride, which occurs naturally in your water supply, not exceed a concentration of 4.0 mg/l in drinking water. This is an enforceable standard called a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and it has been established to protect the public health. Exposure to drinking water levels above 4.0 mg/l for many years may result, in some cases, of crippling skeletal fluorosis, which is a serious bone disorder.

Federal law required that we notify you when monitoring indicates that the fluoride in your drinking water exceeds 2.0 mg/l. This is intended to alert families about dental problems that might affect children under nine years of age. The fluoride concentration of your water exceeds this federal guideline.

Fluoride in children's drinking water at levels of approximately 1 mg/l reduces the number of cavities. However, some children exposed to levels of fluoride greater than about 2.0 mg/l may develop fluorosis. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate and severe forms, is a brown staining and/or pitting of the *permanent* teeth. Because dental fluorosis occurs only when *developing* teeth (before they erupt from the gums) are exposed to elevated levels of fluoride, households without children are not expected to be affected by this level of fluoride. Families with children under the age of nine are encouraged to seek other sources of drinking water for their children to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Jay Janney at 410-729-8350 or email your request to jjann@menv.com.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Maryland Code of Regulations

26.04.01.20-2 Consumer Confidence Report Delivery

(G.) Report Delivery and Record Keeping.

(1) Except as provided in §H of this regulation, each supplier of water to a community water system shall mail or otherwise directly deliver one copy of the report to each customer.

(2) The supplier of water to a community water system shall make a good faith effort to reach consumers who do not get water bills, using means recommended by the State. Good faith effort will be tailored to the consumers who are served by the system but are not bill-paying customers, such as renters or workers. A good faith effort to reach consumers would include a mix of methods appropriate to the particular system such as: posting the reports on the Internet; mailing to postal patrons in metropolitan areas; advertising the availability of the report in the news media; publication in a local newspaper; posting in public places such as cafeterias or lunch rooms of public buildings; delivery of multiple copies for distribution by single-biller customers such as apartment buildings or large private employers; or delivery to community organizations.

(3) Not later than the date the system is required to distribute the report to its customers, each supplier of water for a community water system shall mail a copy of the report to the State, followed within 3 months by a certification that the report has been distributed to customers, and that the information is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the State.

(4) Not later than the date the system is required to distribute the report to its customers, each community water system shall deliver the report to any other agency or clearinghouse identified by the State.

(5) Each community water system shall make its reports available to the public upon request.

(6) Each community water system serving 100,000 or more persons shall post its current year's report to a publicly accessible site on the Internet.

(7) Any supplier of water subject to this regulation shall retain copies of its consumer confidence report for no less than 3 years.

SYSTEMS SERVING < 10,000

(H.) The requirement of §G(1), (5) and (6) of this regulation for a supplier of water to a community water systems serving less than 10,000 persons has been waived. Such systems shall:

(1) Publish the reports in one or more local newspapers serving the area in which the system is located;

(2) Publish a notice in the newspaper, or by other means approved by the State, that informs the customers that the reports will not be mailed; and

(3) Make the reports available to the public upon request.

SYSTEMS SERVING ≤ 500

(I.) Supplier of water to systems serving 500 or fewer persons may forego the requirements of paragraphs §H (1) and (2) if they provide notice at least once per year to their customers by mail, door-to-door delivery or by posting in an appropriate location that the report is available upon request.