2024

Consumer Confidence Report

St. Marys Area Water Authority

PWSID #6240016

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is Laurel Run, which feeds the Thomas J. Gerg Reservoir located along State Route 120, approximately 3 miles west of downtown St. Marys.

Monitoring

The St. Marys Water Authority routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. Our Public Water Supply ID # (PWSID) is 6240016. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2024. This table shows only contaminants that were detected and the levels at which they were detected. There were many other contaminants that were not detected in the samples we collected for analysis. Our 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. As such, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2024, our water system was within all of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) requirements for water quality.

Definitions

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar to you. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Non-Applicable (n/a) - listed regulation does not apply to parameter.

Unit of Measure (UOM) - Unit of Measure.

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.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" 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 (MCLGs) - The "Goal" 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MaxRDL) - 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 disinfection to control microbial contamination.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system or the distribution system as indicated in the table.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) – The average value of the most recent four quarters of sampling test results for a particular sampling location.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Statement Concerning Lead in Water

Elevated levels, if present, of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The St. Marys Area 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 can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Monitoring Results

WATER MONITORING RESULTS

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (UOM)	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Date	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.55	0.14-1.41	2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production wastes.
Combined Uranium (pCi/L)	20	20	0.67	n/a	2023	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.26	n/a	2024	N	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints.
Haloacetic Acids Five (HAA5) (ppb)	60	n/a	40 Highest LRAA	2-55	2024	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	80	n/a	42 Highest LRAA	17-73	2024	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.046	n/a	2022	N	Discharge or drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15	n/a	3.9	n/a	2014	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

ENTRY POINT DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL						
Contaminant (UOM)	MinRDL	Lowest	Range	Date	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (ppm)	0.20	0.46	0.46-1.36	2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL						
Contaminant (UOM)	MinRDL	Lowest	Range	Date	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (ppm)	0.2	0.55	0.55-0.76	2024	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

LEAD & COPPER RULE							
Contaminant (UOM)	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of Sites above AL	Date	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead (ppb)	15	0	3.4	3 of 30	2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.11	0 of 30	2022	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

MICROBIAL					
Contaminant (UOM)	MCL	MCLG	Highest # of Positive Samples	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	More than one positive sample	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)					
Contaminant (UOM)	% Removal Required	Range of % Removal Achieved	Qtrs out of Compliance	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
TOC	35%	38-54%	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

TURBIDITY						
Contaminant (UOM)	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Date	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU for a single measurement	0	0.29 NTU On 3/12/2024	2024	N	Soil runoff.
	TT = at least 95% of monthly samples <= 0.3 NTU	0	100%	2024	N	

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk of 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 can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The St. Marys Area Water Authority Conducts Additional Tests

In addition to the required mandatory tests, we voluntarily test for additional substances to make certain your water is not only safe, but of high quality. These tests include monitoring of pH, manganese, iron, alkalinity, calcium, chloride and hardness.

Past, Present & Future

The original St. Marys Water Company was created in 1889. Year 2024 marked the 58th year anniversary of the articles of incorporation of the St. Marys Area Water Authority. Over this time, many local volunteers serving on the Authority Board have invested much time and effort into building the water system that all of us who live in this community enjoy every day. The expansion and improvement of this system has occurred steadily over these years with a keen interest in providing good quality water to our customers at an affordable cost. The cost of our service is consistently among the lowest compared to other water systems in Pennsylvania.

Conclusion

We are proud of the efforts that have been made to meet or exceed all federal and state drinking water quality requirements.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

We at the St. Marys Area Water Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you have any questions concerning this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dwight D. Hoare, P.E. at the SMAWA office at (814) 834-4362. We want our valued customers

to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 pm at the Operations Office of the Thomas J. Gerg Plant and Reservoir, 967 State Street, St. Marys, PA 15857.