



2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report The Town of Rising Sun, Maryland

We're pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality 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. This report covers the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This report is being placed in a local paper for general distribution to residents of the Town of Rising Sun. This report is also available at the Rising Sun Town Hall, 1 East Main Street and on our website at: www.risingsunmd.com.

Your water comes from five municipal wells that vary in depth from 85 feet to 400 feet. All five wells are owned by the Town of Rising Sun and are located within Town limits. The underground source of water is located within fractures of the bedrock. The Town also restricts any activities that could contaminate them. For additional information about your water, you may contact Ron Thomas, Water Plant Operator, at (410) 658-5353 or you may attend a public meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners. The meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Rising Sun Town Hall.

The Town of Rising Sun conducts tests on the drinking water throughout the year as required by State and Federal regulations. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA'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 sets guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. These guidelines are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The source of drinking water tap water and bottled water includes 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 humans.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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 or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.

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.

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. 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.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. 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, 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. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water 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. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **N/A** – not applicable, **ND** – not detectable at testing limit, **ppb** – parts per billion or micrograms per liter, **ppm** – parts per million or milligrams per liter, **pCi/l** – picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

Regulated Contaminants

| Contaminant | Dates Tested | Water Tower | Unit of Measurement | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-----|---|
| Total Trihalomethanes | 2015 | ND | Ug/L | 80 | By Product of Drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids Total | 2015 | ND | Ug/L | 60 | By Product of Drinking Water Chlorination |

| Contaminant | Dates Tested | Level Detected @ Wells 1, 3, 5, 8 | Level Detected @ Well 12 | Unit of Measurement | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----|--|
| Nitrate | Quarterly in 2015 | 3.56 | 5.11 | Mg/L | 10 | Run off from fertilizer Erosion of natural deposits |

Detected Contaminants Not in Violation of the MCL

| Contaminant | Level Detected | MCL |
|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Antimony | ND | 0.006 |
| Arsenic | ND | 0.010 |
| Barium | 0.0198 | 2 |
| Beryllium | ND | 0.004 |
| Cadmium | ND | 0.005 |
| Chromium | ND | 0.1 |
| Fluoride | ND | 4.0 |
| Mercury | ND | 0.002 |
| Nickel | ND | 0.1 |
| Selenium | ND | 0.05 |
| Sodium | 28.7 | -- |
| Thallium | ND | 0.002 |

It is important to understand that the detection of these substances in the drinking water does not constitute a known threat to public health because they were found only at levels less than the MCL and below the level that EPA currently feels may constitute a health threat. MCL's are set at very stringent levels, and the Town's water has proved to be below those levels for the contaminants listed above.

Educational Information

LEAD – Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap water for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

NITRATES - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

It is important to understand that the detection of these substances in the drinking water does not constitute a known threat to public health because they are unregulated at this time.

In closing, we're happy to report that last year, as in years past; your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Rising Sun vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system is operating in a safe and reliable manner. We hope this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is read by all our customers. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Mayor and Board of Commissioners
Town of Rising Sun