St. Mary’s County Metropolitan Commission
Southgate
PWSID # 0180048
2010 Annual Water Quality Report

Once again, we proudly present our Annual Water Quality Report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2010. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

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. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The source of your drinking water is one well in the Aquia Aquifer. Wells in this aquifer range in depth from 450 to 600 feet beneath the land’s surface. Our water comes from confined aquifers. The confining units are thick, impervious clay layers that lie above and below the water-bearing sand strata. We are very fortunate that these confining layers naturally protect our aquifers. The only treatment your water receives is the addition of chlorine as a precautionary disinfecting agent prior to entering your water distribution system.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds Federal and State requirements. The following report is provided in compliance with Federal regulations and will be provided annually. This report outlines the quality of our drinking water and what that quality means.

For more information regarding your drinking water or water service, call the St. Mary’s County Metropolitan Commission at (301) 373-4733, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, or visit our website www.metcom.org.
In this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we’ve provided the following definitions:

**DEFINITIONS**

ND = Non-Detects
Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

ppm = Parts Per Million or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l)
One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.00.

ppb = Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter (ug/l)
One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.00.

pCi/L = Picocuries Per Liter
Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

AL = Action Level
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. (Note: Only applies to copper and lead levels)

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
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.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
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.

N/A = Non-Applicable
No minimum levels have been established by the EPA.

**Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water**

It is important to understand that the EPA has determined that the detection of these substances in the drinking water does not constitute a known threat to public health at levels less than the MCL. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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. The St. Mary’s County Metropolitan Commission’s water has proved to be below those levels for the contaminants listed.

The St. Mary’s County Metropolitan Commission found some regulated contaminants present in your water system at levels below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). These levels have been determined by the EPA to be safe. These contaminants are shown below, along with the MCLG and MCL for each one detected.

Although we ran tests for over 75 regulated contaminants, only the following listed substances were found. For a complete list of tested, undetected substances, contact the Water Division at (301) 373-4733.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Date Tested</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Level Detected</th>
<th>Possible Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalapon</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Di (2-Ethylhexyl)Phthalate</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>Discharge from rubber and Chemical companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Discharge from petroleum factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTHMs Total Trihalomethane</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

No fluoride has been added to any of our water systems. However, small amounts of fluoride exist naturally in our water source. These levels may not meet the recommended amounts for dental protection. You may wish to consult with your dental care provider to discuss fluoride supplements. To inquire about the amount of fluoride detected in the water system, please call the Water Division at (301) 373-4733 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.