

2013 Water Quality Report

This Water Quality Report identifies the source of your drinking water and the results of water quality monitoring conducted during 2013(except where noted). If you have any questions about this report or your water quality, please contact us at (757) 865-1330.

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottle 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.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas productions, mining or farming.

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

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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791) or visiting www.epa.gov/safewater.

PROTECTING OUR CUSTOMERS

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 their drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791).

The EPA sets MCLs at very stringent levels. In developing the standard, the EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

DEFINITIONS - All definitions given are general and may not apply to a particular system

AL: Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

N/A: Not Applicable.

ND: Non-Detect – Not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – Measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/l: Picocuries per liter – A measure of the radioactivity in water.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter – One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter – One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

ppt: Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter- On part by weight of analyte to 1 trillion parts by weight of the water sample.

TT: Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

TTHMs: Total Trihalomethanes - TTHMs form when natural organic matter decomposes and combines chemically with the chlorine added for disinfection. Levels of TTHMs vary seasonally.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions

BLB Family Housing LLC Public Water System, PWSID No. VA3199100

We are pleased to present our Drinking Water Quality Report. The data for this report was collected during 2013 (except where noted). The state allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Although the water system samples your water for many substances, we are listing only those regulated substances that were detected in your water.

The BLB Family Housing LLC Public Water System purchases its water from the Newport News Water System. The Newport News Water System obtains surface water from the Chickahominy River. The water is disinfected with chlorine and phosphate is added for corrosion control. Water treatment also includes chemical coagulation with aluminum sulfate, clarification, filtration, pH control, and fluoridation.

The Hampton Road Planning District Commission conducted a Source Water Assessment of the Newport News Waterworks in 2001 and 2002. The surface water sources for the waterworks were rated as relatively high in susceptibility, while the deep groundwater wells were rated as low in susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its EPA-approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report includes maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities, a susceptibility explanation chart, and definitions of key terms. The report is available by contacting Jamie LaRoche of Langley Family Housing at (757) 865-1330.

Newport News Waterworks (Treatment Plant and Point of Entry Samples)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	2013	N	0.29	0.02 – 0.29	NA	TT	Organic matter from reservoir
Results reported above are the highest average filter effluent. At least 95% of the monthly samples met the standard of 0.3 NTU.							
Total Organic Carbon	2013	N	1.16	1.07 – 1.76	NA	TT	Algae, fallen leaves
Results reported above are annual average and range of monthly TOC removal ratios (TOC removed over removal required)							
Newport News Waterworks tested its source water for <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and <i>Giardia</i> in 2013. <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and <i>Giardia</i> were not detected in the water samples. <i>Cryptosporidium</i> is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Water treatment processes will remove <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , but complete removal of all organisms at all times cannot be guaranteed. For this reason, immuno-compromised individuals (people with weakened immune systems) are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection.							
Radiological Contaminants- Results below are in pCi/L. The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body). EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be an equivalent level of concern for beta particles.							
Beta Emitters	2010	N	1.8	NA	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2013	N	0.021	0.020 – 0.021	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2013	N	1.20	ND – 1.20	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	2013	N	0.040	0.036 – 0.040	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2013	N	0.003	0.002 – 0.003	1	1	

BLB Family Housing LLC Public Water System Results							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG/ MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectant/ Disinfection Byproduct (D/DBP) Parameters							
Chloramines (ppm)	01/13 -12/13	N	3.03	0.11 – 3.40	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	01/13-12/13	N	38	7.18 – 32.1	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalo-methanes (ppb)	01/13-12/13	N	23	6.3 – 46.5	NA	80	

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sample (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th %tile Result	Range	# of sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	06-07/13	N	0.02	0.038 – 0.045	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	06-07/13	N	1.1	ND – 3.2	0	0	15	

Violation:

During the months of June 2013 – September 2013, we were required to collect 20 lead and copper water samples, however, we only collected 15 samples. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. Of the samples that were collected, all of the results indicated that the levels of lead and copper in the drinking water were well below the EPA established action levels as shown in the range in the chart above.

Corrective action:

We have arranged for sampling to resume in 2014 and expect to return to compliance at this time.

Health effects language:

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Infants and children who drink water containing Lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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. BLB Family Housing LLC Public Water System 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>.

Since the BLB Family Housing LLC Public Water System purchases its water from the Newport News Water System, major decisions about your drinking water are made by Newport News City Council. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 pm and you are welcome to attend and participate. These meetings are also broadcast live on Newport News City Channel 48. For more information about Newport News City Council, visit their web site at: www.nngov.com/council.