

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Town of Charlestown, Maryland (PWSID: 0070029)
2007 – Consumer Confidence Report

We're pleased to present to you 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The source of our drinking water is two wells drilled into the upper Potomac aquifer, which lies about 200 feet below the earth's surface. An aquifer is an underground body of water, which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The 200 feet of earth between surface sources and this aquifer helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into your water distribution system.

There are several sources of potential contamination to Charlestown's water supply. There is an underground heating oil tank at the elementary school. The tank at the school was installed in August, 1995. There was a potential water well site as well as a MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) monitoring well that could lead to contamination. Also of concern is rail traffic utilizing the Amtrak lines. It was determined through a Wellhead Protection (WHP) study that Charlestown's water supply is susceptible to volatile organic compounds (e.g. solvents and gasoline), but is not susceptible to inorganic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, radionuclides, or microbiological contaminants. **We have a Source Water Assessment report on file at the Town Hall. This report may be reviewed during regular business hours which are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

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

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Assistant Town Administrator, Stanley W. Hearne at (410) 287-6173, Fax (410) 287-6620, E-Mail: stanleyhearne@comcast.net. 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 board meetings. They are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month at Town Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Charlestown water department routinely monitors for over ninety (90) regulated contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The last period of testing was for the time frame between January 1st to December 31, 2007. A list of the contaminants tested is available at the Town Hall. Please see the second page for those that were detected. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, **including bottled drinking water**, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Definitions

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:

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

Non Detect – (ND) Not detected

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All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. 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.

Usted puede obtener informacion en espanol por llamar por telefono la casa del ayuntamiento de Town of Charlestown at (410) 287-6173

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Please call our office if you have questions.

The Commissioners of Charlestown are dedicated to providing 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.

The Commissioners of Charlestown
 241 Market Street, P.O. Box 154
 Charlestown, MD 21914

The results of tests conducted are as follow:

Detected Contaminants That Are Regulated

<u>Contaminant Detected</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>
1. TTHM Total Trihalometanes	.00053	milligrams per liter	.08	.06
2. Gross Alpha	1	picocuries per liter	15	zero
3. Nitrate	.22	milligrams per liter	10	10
4. Radium-226	.3	picocuries per liter	5	zero

Standard

MCL/secondary

1. pH	6.8-7.3	6.5 – 8.5
2. Chlorine residual	0.8 – 1.1	4.0 ppm
3. Iron	0 - 0.02	0.3 ppm