

2009

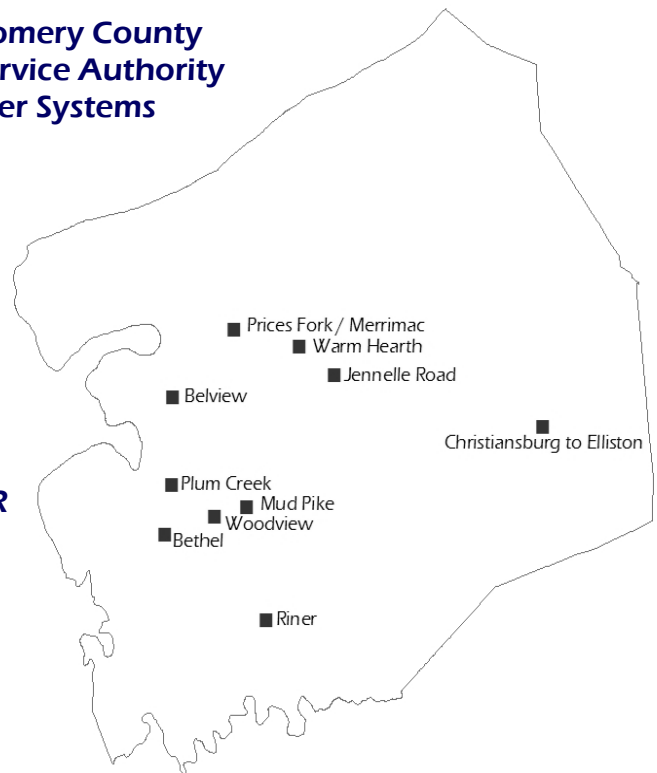
Mud Pike

Consumer Confidence Report



Montgomery County Public Service Authority Water Systems

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE AND MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STANDARDS.



Introduction

This report is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

The Montgomery County Public Service Authority (PSA) operates ten individual public water

systems in the unincorporated areas of the County. Combined, these systems consist of over 90 miles of water mains, four wells, 16 water tanks, 22 pumps, 23 pressure reducing valves, four connections to the Town of Blacksburg, three connections to the Town of Christiansburg, two connections to the City of Radford, and one connection to the Arsenal. Approximately 25.5 million gallons of water are distributed by the PSA monthly.

If you have questions

about this report, please contact:

Don Todora
PSA Operations Specialist
(540) 381-1997

For additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or to learn how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Bob Fronk
PSA Director
(540) 381-1997

PSA board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first

Monday of each month in the County Administration Room in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street in Christiansburg.

Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply.

This and other important information are available on the PSA website: MontVA.com/psa

General information

Drinking water, including bottled drinking 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. **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.** USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants along with **additional information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-**

4791) or by visiting their website (www.epa.gov/safewater).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled 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:

- (1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (2) 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 production, mining, or farming.

- (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (4) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the **USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.** Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources and treatment of your drinking water

The ten water systems operated by the Public Service Authority include both surface water and groundwater sources. Three are supplied by the Town of Blacksburg: Warm Hearth, Belview, and Jennelle Road. Two are supplied by the Town of Christiansburg: Christiansburg to Elliston and Mudpike Road. Two are supplied by the City of Radford: Plum Creek and Bethel. Two are supplied by wells operated by the PSA: Riner and Woodview. The remaining system, Price's Fork/Merrimac, is supplied by the Arsenal with backup connections to the Town of Blacksburg and the Town of Christiansburg.

The New River is the surface water source supplying the systems connected to Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford, and the Arsenal. The raw water goes to either the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority

Treatment Plant, the Radford Water Treatment Plant, or the Arsenal Potable Water Treatment Plant. **Treatment consists of chemical addition, coagulation, flocculation, settling, filtration and disinfection.** All these processes work together to remove the physical, chemical and biological contaminants to make the water safe for drinking. The New River was determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using criteria developed by the State in its USEPA approved Source Water Assessment Program. **The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years from the date of the assessment.** Treatment plants are operated to minimize threats associated with potential contamination of these water sources.

Treatment of the groundwater sources at the PSA's wells consist of the addition of chlorine to disinfect the water. Chlorine residuals and turbidities are checked on a daily basis at the wells and throughout all the individual distribution systems. Water storage tanks are checked at least three times weekly. **Source water assessments have been completed for the PSA's groundwater supplied systems: Riner and Woodview.** These wells have a high susceptibility to contamination due to migration of contaminants with land use activities of concern, potential conduits to groundwater and/or potential sources of contamination in the assessment areas. **There has been no known contamination of these sources within the last five years.** Source water assessments are available to view upon written request.

Quality on Tap

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. **The table on the following page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009.** Any contaminants not listed in the table were not detected in your drinking water.

PSA water is routinely monitored for up to 76 regulated, 48 unregulated, and many non-regulated contaminants. The Virginia Department of Health allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data presented in the following table may be more than one year old.

In the table and elsewhere in this report, you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. **The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms.**

ppm mg/l	parts per million milligrams per liter	One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.00.
ppb µg/l	parts per billion micrograms per liter	One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.00
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
AL	Action Level	the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter	a measure of the radioactivity in water
N/A	Not Applicable	abbreviation used in the "range" section
mrem/yr	millirems per year	a measure of radiation absorbed by the body
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique	a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
ND	Not Detected	Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present or is below detection limit

Additional health information for lead

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. The Montgomery County Public Service 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 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791)** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Drinking water levels

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets MCL's at very stringent levels. In developing these standards, USEPA assumes that the average adult drinks two liters of water each day throughout a 70-year lifespan. USEPA generally sets MCL's at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-one million change of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

Mud Pike

2009 water quality results of regulated contaminants

In the distribution system

Microbiological contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (ppm)	N/A	TT, MET WHEN ≥ 1	1.04	1.0 to 1.09	YES	2009	Naturally present in the environment
TURBIDITY (NTU)	N/A	TT, 1 NTU MAX TT, < 0.3 (95% of the time)	0.09	0.02 to 0.09	YES	2009	Soil runoff
			100%				

Radioactive contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
COMBINED RADIUM (pCi/L)	0	5	1.4	N/A	YES	2008	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
NITRATE/NITRITE (ppm)	10	10	0.52 mg/l	N/A	YES	2009	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

Volatile organic contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
CHLORINE (ppm)	MRDLG=4	MRDLG=4	1.99	1.5 to 2.2	YES	2009	Water additive used to control microbes
HALOACETIC ACID (ppb)	N/A	60	37	24 to 51	YES	2009	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL TRIHALO- METHANES (ppb)	N/A	80	40	18 to 63	YES	2009	By-product of drinking water disinfection

At the customer tap

Inorganic contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	ACTION LEVEL	90TH PERCENTILE	# SITES EXCEEDING AL	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
COPPER (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.068	0	YES	2009	Corrosion of household plumbing

Microbiological contaminants present

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL DETECTED	AFTER RESAMPLING	IN COMPLIANCE	DATE OF SAMPLE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
COLIFORM (# detections)	0	1	2	0	NO	JULY	Naturally present in the environment

Cryptosporidium

Back in 1992, the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, VPI Water Authority observed that drinking water researchers and EPA were becoming concerned about *Cryptosporidium* (*Crypto*), a microscopic parasite present in most surface waters serving water supplies. Ingestion of *Crypto* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. The most effective method of removal is filtration such as what is practiced at the Water Authority although its removal is not 100% guaranteed. Disinfection, such as with chlorine, has been found to be ineffective against *Crypto*.

In 1994, the Water Authority began routine testing for *Crypto* in the New River. Many of the samples since then have shown no *Crypto* while others have indicated the presence of *Crypto* in very small numbers.

As of 2008, under the USEPA "Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule", we are now **required** to collect at least 24 samples (monthly) over a 2 year period. The Water Authority has chosen to collect 48 samples over those 2 years. Furthermore, we are required to tell you about that monitoring and give you the results. During 2009, the Water Authority collected 24 official samples from the New River and the average *Crypto* concentration was 0.0286 oocysts per liter. While the monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water (before treatment), the current test methods do not allow analysts to determine if the organisms are dead or alive. Based on the *Cryptosporidium* monitoring results so far, the Water Authority anticipates having no problem meeting **future** USEPA treatment requirements.

MCL violation information

In July, two bacteriological water quality samples tested positive for total coliform bacterial. Coliform are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Total coliform bacterial are generally not harmful themselves.

Whenever total coliform bacteria are detected in a sample, follow-up testing is conducted to determine if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform, E-Coli, are present. No fecal coliform or E-Coli were found. **The PSA has thoroughly flushed the water distribution system and reviewed sampling procedures. No bacteria was found in subsequent testing.**