

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Town of Appalachia (PWSID No. 1195050)

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year **2020** is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and 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).

If you have questions about this report or want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact: **Mark Quillin, Appalachia WTP (276)565-3903 or Fred Luntsford, Town Manager (276)565-3900**

The times and location of regularly scheduled town council meetings are as follows:

Date: The 3rd Thursday of each Month. **Time:** 5:00 pm. **Location:** Town Hall, 508 West Main Street, Appalachia, Virginia

GENERAL INFORMATION

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: (i) microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (ii) 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; (iii) pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; (iv) 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; (v) 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 Environmental Protection Agency'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 who are 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 and 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE and TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The source of your drinking water is surface water. The source of the Town's water supply is Ben's Branch Reservoir containing 100 million gallons.

Your drinking water supply is treated in the following way. Treatment of the raw water consists of chemical addition, coagulation, flocculation, settling, filtration and chlorination. All of these processes work together to remove the physical, chemical and biological contaminants to make the water safe for drinking.

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system on March 16, 2020. The Town's reservoir was determined to be of moderate susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its 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. The report is available by contacting Mark Quillin or Fred Luntsford at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, **2020**. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL - 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 Contaminant Level Goal, or MCLG - 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG - the level of 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL - 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.

Non-detects (ND) - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Level 1 assessment - a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 assessment - a very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* PMCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**TOWN OF APPALACHIA
WATER QUALITY RESULTS**

REGULATED COMTAMINANTS:

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.82	N	N/A	1/8/2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.020	N	N/A	1/8/2020	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	0.3	N	N/A	7/9/2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.07	N	0.46 – 1.39	2020	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT, met when ≥ 1	1.01	N	N/A	2020	Naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	40	N	N/A	3/11/2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	50	N	N/A	9/16/2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	NA	TT, 1 NTU Max	0.12	N	0.02 – 0.12	2020	Soil runoff
		TT, ≤ 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	100%	N			

LEAD AND COPPER CONTAMINANTS:

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	Action Level	90 th Percentile	Date of Sampling	# of Sampling Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.192	8/7/19	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	< 2	8/7/19	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

The state 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 above tables, though accurate, is more than one year old.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards the EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. The 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.

VIOLATION INFORMATION – No violations occurred in 2020.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 Town of Appalachia 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 two 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 (800-426-4791).

Sodium

There is currently no established standard for sodium in drinking water. Water containing more than 270ppm of sodium should not be used as drinking water by those persons whose physician has placed them on a moderately restricted sodium diet. Water containing more than 20ppm should not be used as drinking water for those persons whose physician has placed them on a severely restricted sodium diet (500mg per day). Should you have a health concern, contact your health provider. For informational purposes, **we wish to point out that the results of our most recent sampling (2020) indicate that your water has a sodium content of 5 ppm.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATERWORKS

As you can see by the table, our system had no water quality violations. We are proud that your drinking water exceeds all Federal and State Requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents, as expected, have been detected. This is normal and the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

The Town of Appalachia takes great pride in its water system. Town water treatment and distribution employees strive at all times to provide citizens with clean, safe and top quality water at every tap. We ask that all of our customers work with us to help protect our water sources, streams and rivers, which are the heart of our communities, our way of life and the key to future development.