Avoid the Clog... Keep out the FOG

Keep our community safe and clean. Prevent sewer blockages and overflows by keeping fats, oils and grease (FOG) out of drains. To learn how to properly dispose of FOG, and for more information, visit:

www.charlottesville.org/fog

Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Board of Directors holds a monthly meeting in which there is a public comment period. These meetings are held every fourth Tuesday @ 2:00pm in the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority’s conference room, 2nd floor, 695 Moores Creek Lane in Charlottesville. Please feel free to attend. Contact (434) 977-2970 for directions or the date of the next meeting.

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What were the results from last year’s testing?

The table in this report shows which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. Before trying to read and understand the table, there are a few terms which need to be defined:

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs are not enforceable.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL):** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. There is no known or expected risk from drinking water containing this MCL. A MCL must be achievable through treatment technologies and existing treatment technologies.

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG):** the level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is no known or expected risk from the use of drinking water to achieve this MRDLG. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfection

**DISINFECTANT USE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:** a method to assess the effectiveness of a disinfectant in reducing the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Four disinfectants are monitored and reported in the Water Quality Summary:

1. Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5)
2. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)
3. HAA5
4. HAA3

**EPA’S SAFE WATER REPORTS (www.epa.gov/safewater):** provides information on the health risks associated with long-term exposure to these contaminants at levels in excess of the MCL. Please visit www.charlottesville.org/waterquality.

The following contaminants were not detected in your drinking water:

- Cryptosporidium
- Total Coliform
- E. coli
- Lead
- Copper
- Radon 3, 4
- Gross Alkali
- Chlorine
- Fluoride
- Barium
- Sodium
- Nitrate
- Lead
- Copper
- Radon 3, 4
- Gross Alkali
- Chlorine
- Fluoride
- Barium
- Sodium
- Nitrate

**What are these contaminants and their potential health risks?**

**TURBIDITY** is a measure of the clarity of the water and has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and may provide a microorganism for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms.

**TOTAL COLIFORM AND E. COLI BACTERIA:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. E. coli in particular may indicate the presence of human or animal waste. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**COMBINED RADIIUM, AND ALPHA AND BETA PARTICLES:** These are radiation hazards, typically formed by the interaction of disinfected water with naturally occurring radioactive materials. Disinfectants are added to inactivate disease-causing pathogens. Organic matter is naturally present from leaves and decaying plants in the reservoir.

**NITRATE:** is an inorganic form of nitrogen found primarily in fertilizers, sewage, and runoff from natural deposits. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill. Nitrate is a nontoxic mineral, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. The hardness of finished water in the City water system averaged 30 mg/L, which is equivalent to 0.2 hardness units.

**COPPER:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper can suffer from Keat’s disease. Copper can also be a risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**NITRATES:** Nitrates are present in your drinking water. The water is said to be hard. The hardness of finished water in the City water system averaged 30 mg/L, which is equivalent to 0.2 hardness units. Nitrates are added to drinking water to promote strong teeth.

**LEAD:** Lead is a poisonous heavy metal. Some people may be more vulnerable to this contaminant, including pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. RWSA and the City are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water; but cannot control the variety of materials in drinking water. When water has been stored or treated in lead or copper service lines or faucets, 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 home 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.

**Additional 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. RWSA and the City are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water; but cannot control the variety of materials in drinking water. When water has been stored or treated in lead or copper service lines or faucets, 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 home 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.

**Fluoride**

Fluoridated water is highly supported by the Virginia Department of Health, the American Medical Association, American Dental Association, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the majority of health professionals in the U.S. Please visit www.cdc.gov/naturalfiltration or in our reservoirs. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. The RWSA makes every effort to 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 home 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.

**What is Water Hardness?**

If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. The hardness of finished water in the City water system averaged 30 mg/L, which is equivalent to 0.2 hardness units. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper can suffer from Keat’s disease. This is mainly calcium. The water may be described as soft to moderately hard.

**Cryensorporidium in Drinking Water**

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan pathogen found in surface waters throughout the United States. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause an abdominal infection characterized by nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps that may persist for up 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 home 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.

Revised Water Treatment Process Coming Soon

RWSA has been granted an expansion to the new requirements for the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Disinfection Byproducts (TTHM/HAA5) treatment. RWSA plans to complete the work by 2020. See Footnote 0% n/a n/a No Human and animal fecal disease-causing organisms.

**What do all these numbers mean?**

Most importantly, this information shows that your drinking water met and exceeded all regulatory requirements during 2014. We are fortunate to have reliable sources for our drinking water needs and well-operated treatment facilities. Additional information is provided below that will give you more details on the contaminant detected in your drinking water. For information on the health risks associated with long-term exposure to these contaminants at levels in excess of the MCL, please visit www.charlottesville.org/waterquality.

**What if I am immuno-compromised?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in your drinking water. Several studies have shown people with immune-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 nursing home patients, and people whose immune systems have been weakened by medical treatments may be more vulnerable to harmful infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate measures to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visit their website (www.epa.gov/safewater).