Lead and Copper Sampling to Begin in Summer 2019

The US Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Department of Health require that, every three years, the City of Charlottesville conduct sampling of your water distribution system, and on homes that have copper or lead pipes and built during a specific time range. The last sampling was conducted in 2016 with a total of 34 samples collected and all 34 samples were well below the current Action Levels set by the EPA for lead and copper. The continued testing of the City’s water system will ensure that water in the City of Charlottesville continues to be clean, safe, and reliable.

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 by using corrosion inhibitors added to the water to coat the pipes and having only lead-free pipes installed to carry drinking water; however, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components of homes and businesses. 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. Also, use cold water and not hot water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The periodic lead and copper testing at select, high risk households took place in the summer of 2016 (see chart data). 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) 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 averages 26.0 mg/L which is equivalent to 1.51 grains per gallon. This is mainly calcium. The water may be described as soft to slightly hard.

Check out the Charlottesville Water Conservation website for information on saving water and money, fixing leaks, WaterWise landscapes, and more!

www.charlottesville.org/waterconservation

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/fof

How do I get more information?

The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority are committed to providing you, the customer, with this information because informed customers are our best allies. We hope that this report was easy to read and easy to understand. We encourage you to contact us and let us know what you think about your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Suggestions on how to make your CCR better are welcomed.

For more information about your water and for any comments, you can contact Lauren Hildebrand at (434) 970-3800 or at Hildebrand@charlottesville.org.

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 at 2:15pm in the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority’s Administration Building conference room, 2nd floor, 695 Moores Creek Lane, Charlottesville. Please feel free to attend. Contact (434) 977-2970 for directions or the date of the next meeting.

Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority

The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) conduct sampling of water for lead and copper. The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) collect samples of water to test for lead and copper. The City of Charlottesville and the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) conduct sampling of water for lead and copper. The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Board of Directors (BWAD) holds a monthly meeting in which there is a public comment period. These meetings are held every fourth Tuesday at 2:15pm in the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority’s Administration Building conference room, 2nd floor, 695 Moores Creek Lane, Charlottesville. Please feel free to attend. Contact (434) 977-2970 for directions or the date of the next meeting.

Continuing our Commitment

Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA), and the City of Charlottesville (City), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), work to ensure that you receive a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. As part of that ongoing commitment, we are providing you with this report on the quality of your drinking water. While this annual report is currently required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), we wish to use this opportunity to assure you that the quality of your drinking water meets and exceeds all regulatory requirements and your expectations for safety, reliability and quality. RWSA collects, stores, and treats the water; then the City buys the treated water from RWSA and distributes it to you through their distribution system.

What does my water come from?

RWSA operates two water treatment plants (WTP) that provide water to the City of Charlottesville. The plants are the South Rivanna WTP and the Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. Sodium hypochlorite is used at both South Rivanna and Observatory WTP. Each plant employs both chemical and physical treatment processes before releasing water into the distribution system. The Observatory WTP draws water from both the Ragged Mountain and Sugar Hollow Reservoirs.

Under a program developed by Virginia Department of Health (VDH), a source water assessment for the Albemarle/Charlottesville Urban Area was completed by the VDH on March 25 and September 4, 2002. This assessment determined that the raw water sources named above may be susceptible to contamination. All surface water sources are exposed to a wide array of contaminants at varying concentrations and changing hydrologic, hydraulic and atmospheric conditions that promote migration of contaminants from land use activities of concern within the assessment area. More specific information may be obtained by contacting the water system representative listed at the end of this insert.

Where does my water come from?

The information in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with the drinking water regulations of the USEPA and the VDH. In the year 2018, RWSA collected and tested hundreds of hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual samples to ensure the quality of your water. Sample sources included the rivers and reservoirs from which the WTPs draw water, the WTPs themselves, and numerous locations in the City’s distribution system.

The sources of drinking water may 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, reacts with specific materials, as well as substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. 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 (800-426-4791) or visit their website (www.epa.gov/safewater).
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 risk to health. MCLGs are set as close to the MCLs as possible using the best available treatment technology.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCLG using the best available treatment technology, taking cost into consideration.

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG)**: The level of a drinking water disinfectant or disinfectant residual below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the level of disinfectant residual that is needed to ensure the quality of drinking water. An MRDLG is established to protect against possible corrosion of lead service lines and water service connections.

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL)**: The level of a drinking water disinfectant or disinfectant residual above which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MRDL was established to protect against possible corrosion of lead service lines and water service connections.

**NON-Detect (ND)**: Test result below the method detection limit.

**What do all these numbers mean?**

Most importantly, this information shows that your drinking water met and exceeded all regulatory requirements during 2018. We are fortunate to have reliable sources for our drinking water needs and well-operated treatment facilities. Additionally, we may expect an occasional presence of certain contaminants as detailed in the table below.

**CYPTROSPORIDUM IN DRINKING WATER**

There is no known or expected risk to health when consuming drinking water containing Cryptosporidium. Based on the fact that Cryptosporidium can make a person very sick, the most commonly used treatment for Cryptosporidium is filtration. Since Cryptosporidium can be transmitted to drinking water, filtration is necessary to prevent the spread of this infection. Additional information is provided below that will give you more details on each 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.

**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/fluoride/ if you would like further information on this topic known as the “fluoride debate.”

Many homeowners do not realize, just like their internal plumbing, they also own a portion of the water and sewer service lines running to their house. Knowing which lines are yours is especially important if the line needs to be repaired. For example, the City cannot enter many below the ground level by digging a hole or tomcat, or performing other repairs.

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as those with 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 healthcare providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate treatment of such people are given below.

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**Who Owns the Meters & Service Lines on Your Property?**

**The City of Charlottesville owns and maintains:**

- Water main
- Sanitary sewer main
- Sewer line
- Gas line
- Water meter

**The property owner owns and is responsible to maintain:**

- Water service line running between the meter and the building
- Plumbing attached to the water service line
- Sanitary sewer service line from the building to the sanitary sewer main

**Have a Service Line Problem and Not Sure Who Owns the Line?**

Contact the Department of Utilities at (434) 970-3900 if the problem is a City-owned line, we will address it. If it is your line, we will let you know. You may even qualify for a bill adjustment if you find and correct a plumbing problem on your side of the line.