Information Statement from the EPA on Lead

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 City of Hagerstown is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The City of Hagerstown Water Division at (301) 739-8577 x680. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

What is PFAS?

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water -resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and firefighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. Our water system was not tested for PFAS in 2022. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx

Terms, Units & Abbreviations

The tables on the following page contain scientific terms and measures:

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

AVG: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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 water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level– 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.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal– A target level for contaminants below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL: Maximum Disinfectant Residual 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.

MDRLG: Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level Goal– The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

mrem: Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

N/A: Not applicable

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units– A measure of water clarity.

ppm: Milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million; equal to one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: Micrograms per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion; equal to one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppt: Nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion; equal to one ounce in 7,350,000, 000 gallons of water.

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

Water Quality Data Table

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS *Values for TTHM and HAA5 are the highest Locational Running Annual Averages (LRAAs) for 2022

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	2022	2.7 ppm	2.7 - 2.7 ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	MRDL = 4 ppm	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022	18 ppb	5.22 - 27.21 ppb	No goal for Total	60 ppb	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022	32 ppb	8.01 - 56.24 ppb	No goal for Total	80 ppb	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Total Coliform	2022 (90/month)	3% (month) 0.4% (year)	0%-3% (month)	0%	5%	NO	Naturally present in the environment

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2022	0.048 ppm	0 - 0.048 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	2022	4.3 ppb	0 - 4.3 ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2022	0.6 ppm	0.52 - 0.654 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	2022	1.0 ppm	0.5 - 1.25 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (*Unregulated*)	2022	15.9 ppm	14.7-15.9 ppm	n/a	n/a	NO	Naturally present in the environment; increased levels in water sources can occur from road salt, industrial waste, fertilizer use

LEAD AND COPPER: tested at customer's taps. Testing is conducted every 3 years.

Regulated Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	Jun-Sep 2022	0 ppb	10 ppb	0.944 ppb	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	Jun-Sep 2022	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.0708 ppm	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems

TURBIDITY: measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

	Limit (TT)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources
Highest Single Measurement	1.0 NTU	0.032 NTU	NO	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	NO	Soil runoff

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC requirements

PFAS INFORMATION

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCL (proposed)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources
PFOA + PFOS	2020	4 ppt	Non-Detect	NO	Human-made chemicals found in stain-and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and fire-fighting foams

**All results on this data table are for the R.C. Willson Plant only, the W.M. Breichner Plant was offline for this period of monitoring*