

BOONSBORO/KEEDYSVILLE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Quality Water Report for the 2006 calendar year for the Boonsboro/Keedysville Regional Water System. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and the extra steps we take to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water comes from the Tomstown Dolomite, a ground water source made of carbonate rock, which forms an aquifer feeding a combination of wells and springs which is filtered, chlorinated and processed with fluoride through the Boonsboro and Keedysville Water Treatment Plants. The Boonsboro/Keedysville Water System staff diligently monitor for constituents in your drinking water insuring safety according to Federal and State laws.

Is my water safe?

Monitoring results included in this report are for the period of *January 1 to December 31, 2006* and will show that our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Why are there some contaminants in my drinking water?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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* at 1-800-426-4791. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, radioactive substances, and inorganic and organic chemicals. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (1-800-426-4791).

Results of Nitrate monitoring.

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 PPM are a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. *If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).*

Results of radon monitoring

Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects. Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

How can I get involved?

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend the regular monthly meeting of the Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission held on the second Thursday of each month in the Boonsboro Town Hall Conference Room at 7 P.M.

Contaminant	Source	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL/ TT	Your Water	Violation	Source of Contamination
Volatile Organic Chemicals							
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	D	2006	N/A	60	0	N	Product of Chlorine Disinfection
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	D	2006	N/A	80	.65	N	Product of Chlorine Disinfection
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1	2003	N/A	15	3	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2	2003	N/A	4	1	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	3	2003	N/A	4	2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	1	2006	4	4	1.1	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additives promoting strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2006	4	4	.9	N	
Fluoride (ppm)	3	2006	4	4	1	N	
Nitrate (ppm)	1	2006	10	10	3.5	N	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2	2006	10	10	4.6	N	
Nitrate (ppm)	3	2004	10	10	3.7	N	
Chromium (ppm)	1	2006	0.1	0.1	.01	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	2	2006	0.1	0.1	.01	N	
Beryllium (ppm)	1	2006	0.004	0.004	.001	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppm)	2	2006	0.004	0.004	.001	N	
Copper (ppm)	D	2005	1.3	1.3	.17	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppm)	D	2005	0	0.015	.005	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants							
Sodium (ppm)	1	2006	MNR	MNR	21.3	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2	2006	MNR	MNR	19.2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	3	2006	MNR	MNR	11.9	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Drinking Water Definitions and (Unit) Descriptions

MCLG : Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; the level of a 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.

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

(NTU) : nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water.

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

(ppm) : parts per million **(ppb)** : parts per billion **(NA)** : not applicable **(MNR)** : monitoring not required

Source : Monitoring results are for three water sources and the distribution system as a whole noted as 1, 2, 3 and D accordingly.

Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old because the state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

For more information regarding this report on the Boonsboro/Keedysville Water System, please contact the Town of Boonsboro at 301-432-5141.