

## TOWN OF PEARISBURG

112 TAZEWELL STREET  
PEARISBURG, VIRGINIA 24134  
PHONE: 540-921-0340

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### WHAT IS THIS AND WHY AM I RECEIVING IT?

There are two different items included within this mailing. The first item is a cross connection survey form. The second item is the 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. Per the Virginia Department of Health Waterworks Regulations and federal regulations, the Town is required to make a good faith effort to provide these documents to every water customer that is served by our water system. These reporting regulations are a standard part of state and federal requirements and ARE NOT an indication that your drinking water is unsafe.

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### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE WATER QUALITY REPORT?

This report is to provide the consumer in order to describe the quality of the Town's drinking water and to inform them about their water utility. The report includes information on our water source, the latest source water assessment, and water quality data. If you have any questions about this report please feel free to contact Rodney Wilson, Director of Public Works, at 540-921-0340.

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### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS CONNECTION SURVEY FORM?

The purpose of the cross connection survey form is to identify any actual or potential cross connections on an individual's property. A cross connection occurs when the setup of a plumbing system allows the drinking water supply to be connected to a line which contains a contaminant. An example is a garden hose attached to an outside spigot with the end of the hose lying in a swimming pool. The survey is as brief as possible and relatively simple to complete. Simply complete Part 1 by filling out your name, address and phone number. (If you are a tenant, please have the property owner complete the survey if you are unsure of your plumbing system.) Then, complete Part 2 by placing a checkmark by the items that apply to your water system. **Per state regulations, each water customer is required to complete and submit this form each year.**



**WHAT IF I AM NOT SURE OF WHICH ITEMS APPLY TO MY WATER SYSTEM?**

While there are a lot of items listed, most of them are not likely to be found at a private citizen's home (ex. Shampoo bowl/dry cleaning equipment). The most common applicable items are the outside spigots, yard spigots, commodes, swimming pools and mop sinks. If your outside spigot has a vacuum breaker you will be able to see it. An illustration of a vacuum breaker can be seen to the right.

There is a space provided at the bottom of the survey to include any other item(s) that are not already included in the list as well as a space for any comments you may have for the water department.

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**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY ANY ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL CROSS CONNECTIONS ON MY PROPERTY?**

It is entirely possible for cross connections within your plumbing system to result in contamination of the public water supply. It is mandatory that each outside spigot, including yard spigots, on your premises have a vacuum breaker in order to prevent the public water supply from becoming contaminated due to back-siphonage or backpressure. Backpressure is created whenever the downstream pressure exceeds the supply pressure. An example would be a hot water space-heating boiler operating under 15-20 pounds of pressure coincidental with a reduction of the Town's water supply below such pressure. The result would be a backpressure condition created and the contaminated boiler water would flow into the drinking water supply. Therefore, it is very important that vacuum breakers be installed. If you do not currently have a vacuum breaker installed please make sure that you complete the section in bold print indicating when you will do so in order to comply with the regulation. (A vacuum breaker is relatively inexpensive and can be purchased at some of the local stores.)

While situations involving backpressure do not occur often, it is a very serious situation when it does occur. Unprotected cross connections are potential disasters which can occur any time unless adequate protective devices are installed.

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**HOW DO I RETURN MY COMPLETED SURVEY TO YOUR OFFICE?**

You can return your completed survey to the Pearisburg Town Office (located at 112 Tazewell St) in person from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If it's more convenient or outside of business hours, you can place it in the drop box located in front of our office.

You can also mail your completed survey to our office. The mailing address is: 112 Tazewell St., Pearisburg, VA 24134.

Please remember that it is very important to return your completed survey to our office as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DUE DECEMBER 1, 2020**

# **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

*Town of Pearisburg, PWSID# 1071660*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2019 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, please contact: Rodney Wilson, Public Works Director, 112 Tazewell Street, Pearisburg VA 24134 (540) 921-0340

If you 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: Todd Meredith, Town Manager, 112 Tazewell Street, Pearisburg, VA 24134 (540) 921-0340

The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows: Town Council Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Pearisburg Municipal Building in the Council Chambers, 112 Tazewell Street, Pearisburg, VA 24134

## **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. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **SOURCES and TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The sources of your drinking water is groundwater under the direct influence of surface water and groundwater as described below: Drinking water is purchased from the Giles County PSA. The PSA obtains its water from two wells located in the Town of Pearisburg.

Is there any treatment of your drinking water supply? ( X ) Yes ( ) No

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system during 2002. The wells were determined to be of high 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 Kevin Belcher, Giles County Public Service Authority at 540-921-2525.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. 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.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS

### Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.54	N	1.15 – 3.54	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.98	N	0.94 – 0.98	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0285	N	ND – 0.0285	2019	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	2.7	N	0.95 – 2.7	2019	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	0.12	N	NA	2019	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.58	N	1.06 – 1.96	2019	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	0.7	N	NA	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	4.8	N	NA	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	NA	TT, 1 NTU Max	0.08	N	0.04 – 0.08	2019	Soil runoff
		TT, ≤ 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	100%	N			

### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Date of Sampling	# of Sampling Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	1.7	September 2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.175	September 2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Monitoring Results for Sodium (Unregulated-No Limits Designated)

Level Detected (unit)	Sample Date	Typical Source	Guidance
16.2 (mg/L) Range: 3.07 – 16.2 mg/L	3/14/2019	Naturally Occurring; Addition of treatment chemicals/processes	For individuals on a <u>very</u> low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking-water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. Should you have a health concern, contact your health care provider.

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 EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. 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**

There were no violations during 2019.

**ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

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. (Town of Pearisburg) 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).

TOWN OF PEARISBURG – CROSS CONNECTION SURVEY

**Part 1**

Address of Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you the owner or tenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
If the owner, tenant's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

Please place a checkmark beside any item that may apply to your premises:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside spigots without vacuum breaker      | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installed vacuum breaker on outside spigots | <input type="checkbox"/> Private well          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frost proof spigot with vacuum breaker      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo bowl/sink     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frost proof spigot without vacuum breaker   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mop sink/laundry sink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-siphon flush tank (commode)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Solar heating system  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard hydrant/yard spigot/standpipe          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cistern               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darkroom/photo development                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacuzzi               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler system (outdoors)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot tub               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler system (indoor)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Process water         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbonated drink machine                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish pond             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaning equipment                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dye vat               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis equipment                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Water trough          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal pool                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Booster pump          |

If you have an existing outside spigot that does not have an installed vacuum breaker, please provide the date that you will have one installed: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please offer a brief description of any other items connected to the water system on your premises:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Pearisburg Town Office in person, drop box located at the front entry or by mailing to : Town of Pearisburg, 112 Tazewell St., Pearisburg, VA 24134