

June 1, 2012

## *2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

### **Riverside Water Treatment Facility**

206 Riverside Drive, Chester, Maryland  
MDE Public Water System ID No. 170018

This report is required by the federal Safe Water Drinking Act Amendment of 1996 and is designed to educate you about the quality of the water we deliver to you every day. We are pleased to inform you that your drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. 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 protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The Sanitary District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. **Your water is supplied by the Riverside water treatment facility that utilizes groundwater from a single 6 inch well 740 feet deep into the Magothy aquifer.** The enclosed table indicates the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2011. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 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).

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. The Sanitary District 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotlines at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

*(Please note EPA mandates the previous two paragraphs. Cryptosporidium is a microbe found in some surface water supplies such as rivers or reservoirs. It is not typically found in groundwater, which is where all of our water supplies originate. In regards to lead, none of our water systems have ever had lead issues.)*

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you to better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Non-Detect* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000. Also equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/l).

*Parts per billion (ppb)* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000. Also equivalent to micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ).

*Action Level (AL)* - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - The 'Goal' is 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 Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The 'Maximum Allowed' is 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.

The Sanitary District's water staff consists of nine personnel with a combined experience of 42 years. Each operator is required to obtain 30 hours of formal training every 3 years in water treatment and water distribution operations.

Major decisions affecting the water utility are made by the County Commissioners, sitting as the Sanitary Commission. Should you wish to attend, the Sanitary Commission meets the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in their meeting room located at 107 North Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland.

In our continuing effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it is often necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements, as well as the cost to retain experienced staff, are reflected in the small annual rate increases you may experience every July.

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact me at the above number.

Very truly yours,

Alan L. Quimby, P.E.  
Chief Sanitary Engineer

## TEST RESULTS

### 2011 Riverside Water Treatment Plant

#### REGULATED CONTAMINENTS

Contaminant	Units	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Sources
Gross Alpha <sup>1</sup>	µrem/y	160	15000	0	Natural Deposits
Gross Beta <sup>1</sup>	µrem/y	400	4000	0	Natural Deposits
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate <sup>2</sup>	ppb	0.4	6	0	Discharge from rubber or chemical factories
Barium	ppb	27	2000	2000	Natural Deposits
Copper	ppb	131	AL=1300	1300	Plumbing Corrosion
Lead	ppb	0	AL=50	0	Plumbing Corrosion
Nitrate	ppb	<b>Non Detect</b>	10,000	10,000	Fertilizer Runoff
Sulfate	ppb	34	250	250	Natural Deposits
Haloacetic Acids <sup>3</sup>	ppb	8	60	0	Disinfection Byproducts
Trihalomethanes <sup>3</sup>	ppb	7	100	0	Disinfection Byproducts

#### UNREGULATED (but detected) CONTAMINENTS

Contaminant	Units	Level Detected
Iron	ppb	180
Sodium	ppm	43
Radon <sup>1</sup>	µrem/y	4800

- Gross Alpha and Gross Beta are a measure of naturally occurring radioactive contaminants.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) tests for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC).

Test Sample Dates: (full test results available upon request)

<sup>3</sup>Disinfection Byproducts – June 10, 2010

Lead & Copper – December 31, 2009

Nitrate & Nitrite – **July 14, 2011**

Inorganics – April 27, 2009

VOC/SOC – May 15, 2007

Radioactives – April 1, 2008

All Others – May 15, 2007

**Bold** indicates new results for this year's report; most contaminants are not required to be tested annually.