

## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

Thurmont Water System

July 2006

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. Our water source is ground water, which consist of six wells. Wells 3,4&9 , Well 2, Well 7 and Well 8. Well 2 and Wells 3,4&9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Well 7 and Well 8 is in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets Federal and State requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact GARY DINGLE at 301-271-7313. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on most Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Thurmont Water System routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2005. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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.

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

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent 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* - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
3. Turbidity		2.1 (d)	NTU			
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
4. Beta/photon emitters	No	2 (a) 4 (c)	pC/L	5 pCi/l		
5. Alpha emitters	No	1 (a) 3 (b) 1 (c) 1 (d)	pC/L	5 pCi/l		
6. Combined Radium	No	1 (d)	pC/L	5 pCi/l		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
10. Barium	No	.035 (b) .009 (c)	mg/L	2 mg/L		
14. Copper	No	.54/90 <sup>th</sup> (e) percentile .63 highest (c)	Ppm		1.3	Interior plumbing of homes
16. Fluoride	No	.18 (c)	mg/L	4 mg/L		
17. Lead	No	.005/90 <sup>th</sup> (e) percentile .0049 Highest (c)	Ppm		.015	Interior plumbing of homes
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	1. (a) 2.4 (b) 3.3 (c) 2.9 (d)	Ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>						
29. Carbofuran	No	5 (a) 5 (b)	mg/L		.04	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
30. Chlordane	No	1 (d)	mg/L	0	.002	Residue of banned termiticide
33. Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	No	1.0 (a) .3 (c) .7 (d)	Ppb	6	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
48. Methoxychlor	No	5 (b)	mg/L		.04	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
49. Oxanyl (Vydate)	No	5 (a) 5 (b)	mg/L		.2	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
72. Trichloroethylene	No	.6 (a) .7 (d)	Ppb	6	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
73. TTHMc (Total trihalomethanes)	No	.1 Dibromochloromethane (b) .6 Dibromochloromethane (d) 1.1 Dibromochloromethane (c) .6 Bromodichloromethane (b) .6 Bromodichloromethane (c) .6 Bromoform (b) .6 Bromoform (e) .9 Bromoform (c)	Ppb	.10	.10	
73. HAA5(Haloacetic Acids)	No	4.94(e)	Ppb	.6	.6	
73. TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	No	10.79 (e)	Ppb	.10	.10	
<b>Unregulated</b>						
21. Sodium	No	101 (a) .05 (c) 92.9 (d)	ppm	Na	na	Unregulated contaminant no health affects determined at this time

**Footnotes: (a) Well 2; (b) Wells 3,4&9 (c) Well 7; (d) Well 8 and (e) Distribution samples**

*The Town of Thurmont had a violation of our monitoring requirements for the year 2002. VOC samples that were to be taken between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 were not taken until February 3, 2003. The results of these samples have come back negative and the Town of Thurmont is in compliance with these regulations.*

*We constantly monitor the water supply for various constituents. We have detected radon in the finished water supply in 2 out of 3 samples tested. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects.*

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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Nitrates:** As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

**Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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 (800-426-4791).

Although we are no longer in a drought situation, I urge residents to continue to use all conservation measures possible to conserve water. Your cooperation with water conservation is deeply appreciated.

We at the Thurmont Water System work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please call our office if you have any questions.