

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Thurmont Water System

PWSID #010-0023

2024

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town’s drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, who have undergone organ transplants, have 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Definitions of Abbreviations and Terms used in this report:

MCLG- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.

MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.

TT – Treatment Technique

NTU- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.

PPM- Parts per Million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

PPB- Parts per Billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

PPT- Parts per Trillion or nanogram per liter or one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.

pCi/L- PicoCuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.

NA-Not Applicable

ND-Not Detected

MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

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

RAA – Running annual average

LRAA – Locational running annual average

Our water system tested a minimum of 7 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2024	0.9	PPM	-	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

Turbidity

Turbidity is a 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.

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std.	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	NO	0.34	December	WTP – WELLS 3,4.&9	Yes

Regulated Contaminants

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Lead and Copper	Period	90 th Percentile	Range of Sample Results	Units	AL	Sites over AL	Typical Source
Copper	2024	.266	.035-.593	ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	2024	2	<1-44	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of Natural Deposits.

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	ACE HARDWARE	2023-2024	6	5.93-5.93	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	Public works offices	2023-2024	1	1.28-1.28	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	ACE HARDWARE	2023-2024	25	25-25	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	PUBLIC WORKS OFFICES	2023-2024	7	6.7-6.7	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
DI(2-ETHYLHEXYL) ADIPATE	3/4/2024	1.53	0-1.53	ppb	400	400	Discharge from chemical factories
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE	5/8/2023	0.00374	0.00374	MG/L	0.1	0.06	
NITRATE	3/4/2024	2.6	2.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRITE	2/19/2024	3.4	2.1-3.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TRICHLOROETHYLENE	5/8/2023	0.61	0-0.61	ppb	5	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	6/13/2021	0.3	0.3	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM – 226	6/13/2021	0.3	0 – 0.3	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM – 228	5/8/2023	0.5	0.5	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminates	Collection Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	VIOLATIONS
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	2024	24.66	6.81-50.8	0	4.0	ppt	N
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2024	12.15	4.72-18.4	0	4.0	ppt	N
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2024	5.09	3.86-6.11	10.0	10.0	ppt	N
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	2024	3.18	2.48-3.94	N/A	N/A	ppt	N
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2024	1.95	1.84-2.06	N/A	N/A	Ppt	N
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	2024	2.08	2.08	N/A	N/A	Ppt	N

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 fire-fighting 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.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE’s website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA,PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Information about lead in Drinking Water:

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects, adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

The Town of Thurmont 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 Town of Thurmont Water Superintendent Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313 for a list of laboratories in your area that provide water testing services. 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>.

An initial inventory of service line pipe material located within our service area was required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16,2024. Our initial inventory was submitted to MDE on 10/16/2024 and is available upon request.

The Town of Thurmont Water Department work around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious resource, we ask you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water sources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 615 E. Main Street.