

## What You Should Know About Your Drinking Water Supply

Published by the City of Cumberland – Utilities Division

### 2015 Water Quality Report

Maryland Public Water Service Identification Number – 0010008

Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification Number - 4050028

In Accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR 141

**Introduction:** The City of Cumberland is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report detailing all contaminant information collected between January 1 and December 31, 2014. The report is designed to inform you about the quality water services delivered to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply. We want you to be aware of the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. The City of Cumberland analyzes its drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Consumer Confidence Report 40 CFR 141 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment and/or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The City also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. Parameters and compounds that were detected in treated water over the calendar year are displayed in the **2014 Water Quality Data Chart**.

**Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:** The water for the City of Cumberland is surface water originating from the Lake Koon and Gordon reservoirs located in the Cumberland Valley Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The primary tributaries supplying water to the reservoirs are Evitts Creek, Growden Run, Oster Run as well as several unnamed tributaries.

**Water Treatment:** Surface water treatment facilities like Cumberland's are designed and operated to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce consistent high quality drinking water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series and each process represents a barrier to prevent the passage of particulate matter, cysts and other microbial contaminants. Our Water Treatment Facility utilizes barriers which include clarification, filtration, and disinfection.

**Water Conservation:** Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development and pollution. The most cost-effective way to protect your water resources is through conservation. For more information on water usage and conservation practices, please contact the Cumberland Engineering Division at 301-759-6604.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:** Please contact the City of Cumberland's Environmental Specialist at 301.759.6604 for additional information regarding this report. This information is also available at the City of Cumberland's web site at [www.ci.cumberland.md.us](http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us).

#### Other water distribution systems in your area include:

LaVale Sanitary Commission at 301-729-1638

Allegany County Sanitary District at 301-777-5942

In accordance with the Drinking Water Act Amendments, Maryland Department of the Environment and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has prepared a **Source Water Assessment Plan** for the Evitts Creek Watershed. The Plan evaluates the existing land use and water quality conditions, describes potential contamination threats as well as providing background to support ongoing efforts to protect the watershed through the Evitts Creek Steering Committee.

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#### Stay informed with Nixle!

Register at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to receive community information via cell phone text message and/or email. The Nixle Community Information Service allows the City of Cumberland to send messages to subscribed residents instantly. Notification can also be accessed at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). Messages may include utility service interruptions, street closures or other relevant safety and community information. City residents and those in neighboring communities can begin receiving pertinent information by signing up for free registration at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

**City of Cumberland**  
**Maryland Public Water Service # 0010008**  
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*Data for both MD and PA water distribution systems unless otherwise noted*

**2014 Water Quality Data Chart**

Regulated Parameters	Units	Cumberland Water Filtration Plant	Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Turbidity (max. monthly avg.)	NTU	0.04	N/A	TT	Soil run-off
Turbidity (max. reported)	NTU	0.08	N/A	1.0	
Total Coliform Bacteria	P/A	A	0	*	Naturally present in the environment
Barium	ppm	0.0359	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (avg)	ppm	2.4	MRDL 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramines (range)	ppm	1.6 - 2.4	MRDL 4	MRDL 4	
Chlorine (avg)	ppm	0.2	MRDL 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (range)	ppm	0.0 - 0.4	MRDL 4	MRDL 4	
Fluoride (average)	ppm	0.58	4	4	Fluoride addition
Fluoride (max reported)	ppm	0.63	4	4	
Nitrate	ppm	0.615	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine	ppb	0.4	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	met TT **	N/A	TT	Naturally occurring in the environment
<i>**Total Organic Carbon Treatment Technique (TT) compliance was achieved through a waiver obtained from Maryland Department of the Environment and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. As per CFR 141.135(a)(2) an alternative Step 2 TOC removal requirement was provided in consistency with all other National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.</i>					
<b>Lead &amp; Copper Data - MD Distribution System</b>					
Copper	ppm	0.19	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	ppb	0	0	15 (AL)	
<b>Lead, Copper &amp; Cyanide Data - PA Distribution System</b>					
Copper (2013)	ppm	0.0373	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (2013)	ppb	<0.001	0	15 (AL)	
<b>Disinfection Byproduct - MD Distribution System</b>					
Total Trihalomethanes (avg)	ppb	41.8	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (range)	ppb	17.1 - 65.5			
Haloacetic Acids (avg)	ppb	28.7	N/A	60	
Haloacetic Acids (range)	ppb	5 - 39			
<b>Disinfection Byproduct - PA Distribution System</b>					
Total Trihalomethanes (avg)	ppb	45.5	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (avg)	ppb	47.4	N/A	60	
<b>Unregulated Parameters</b>					
pH (range)	S.U.	7.15-7.68	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment
Hardness	ppm	104	N/A	N/A	
Sodium	ppm	4.96	N/A	N/A	
<b>Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3</b>					
Total Strontium	ppb	214	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment

(See Definitions on next page)

<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)</b>	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 best available treatment technology
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</b>	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>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)</b>	Set by the USEPA - is the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water
<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
<b>Treatment Technique (TT)</b>	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
<b>Waiver, Variance, or Exception</b>	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
<b>NTU</b> – Nephelometric Turbidity	<b>pCi/L</b> – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>ppb</b> – Parts per billion	<b>ppm</b> – Parts per million
<b>P/A</b> – Presence/Absence	<b>S.U.</b> – Standard Units
*Not more than one (1) positive sample if less than 40 samples collected	

**General Drinking Water Information:** 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 (EPA):

### **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 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. The City of Cumberland's water is treated in accordance with all State and Federal regulations. See the **2014 Water Quality Data Chart** that summarizes water testing results for the **2014** calendar year.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3** (UCMR 3) was published on May 2, 2012. This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. Results from the UCMR 3 monitoring are included within the **2014 Water Quality Data Chart**.

**Additional Information Regarding Lead:** In 1992 EPA created new standards for acceptable levels of lead and copper in drinking water. 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 City of Cumberland – Utilities Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.