



# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report for the Town of North East Water Department MD0070016



This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST is surface water.

If you want to learn more please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the North East Town Hall Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m.

Rolling Mill Water Treatment Plant  
Ron Carter  
39 Rolling Mill Lane  
North East, MD 21901  
410-287-8102

Leslie Water Treatment Plant  
Ron Carter  
39 Leslie Road  
North East, MD 21901  
410-287-8102

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## Source of Drinking Water

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:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally – occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health side effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

A source water assessment was performed by MDE and is available on their website, [mde.maryland.gov](http://mde.maryland.gov).

### **Regulations and Contaminants**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which 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.

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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>.

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 for drinking or cooking.

### **Use Water Wisely**

Think about your water-use habits. Make every drop count.

#### **In the Bathroom**

Your toilet is the biggest water user in the house. It uses 1.6 to 5 gallons down the drain per flush.

Your shower uses 2-5 gallons per minute.

Your sink faucet uses about 2.5 gallons per minutes.

Think about turning the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.



#### **In the Kitchen**

Only run the dishwasher when it is full.

At the sink, use a basin for washing and rinsing dishes or washing vegetable instead of letting the water run. Only run the dishwasher when it is full.

#### **In the Laundry**

Adjust the washing machine setting to match the amount of clothes being washed.

#### **Outdoors**

Use a bucket rather than running a hose to wash your car.

Water plants in early morning.

By reducing your outdoor water use, either by cutting back on irrigation or planting more drought tolerant landscaping, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.

## 2023 Annual Water Quality Report for the Town of North East Water Department 2023 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	0.061	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2023	0	15	1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

*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 Town of North East** 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 North East, Water Department, 410-287-8102**. 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>.*

### Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures; some of which may require explanation.

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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.

Level 1 Assessment:

A Level I assessment is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level MCLGS 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.

Level 2 Assessment:

A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why any E coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our system on multiple occasions.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG:

The level of a 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.

na:

not applicable.

mrem:

millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

ppb:

micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm:

milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppt:

nanogram per kilogram or parts per trillion – or one ounce in 7,350,000,000 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT:

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Regulated Contaminants**

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Product	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range or Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	1.2	1.1 - 1.2	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2023	55	38.8 - 72.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	69	28.2 - 155	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

**Unregulated Contaminants**

PFAS Contaminant	Units	Year	Highest Value	Range
PFOS	ppt	2022	1.54	1.12 - 1.54
PFHxS	ppt	2022	3.37	3.01 - 3.37
PFOA	ppt	2022	1.59	1.08 - 1.59

PFAS – or 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) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5 th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range or Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2023	0.6	0.61 – 0.61	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	2	1.68-1.82	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	2023	0.027	0.024 – 0.027	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

### **Turbidity**

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1.0 NTU	0.287 NTU	N	Soil runoff

Information Statement: 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

Lowest monthly & Meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff
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Information Statement: 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

### **Total Organic Carbon**

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

### **Violations Table**

<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>			
Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, Average	7/01/2023	9/30/2023	Water samples have showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard