TOWN OF NORTH EAST, MARYLAND / Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Public Water System ID: MD0070016

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the period of January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. 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.

For more information regarding this report, contact: Ron Carter, Superintendent at 410-287-8102.

Please note in accordance with COMAR 26.04.01.20-2 copies of the report will not be mailed individually to each user but has been published in a local publication. Please note copies are always available at the North East Town Hall during business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM), the Town website: www.northeastmd.org or by calling 410-287-8102.

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

The water sources for the Town of North East are the Little North East Creek and the North East Creek (both surface supply). Intakes along the banks of each creek bring raw water into the treatment plants listed below:

SOURCE NAME		TYPE OF WATER	LOCATION
NORTH EAST CREEK	01 - ROLLING MILL WTP FILTER PLANT LITTLE NORTH EAST CREEK	Surface Water	39 Rolling Mill Lane
NORTH EAST CREEK	02 - LESLIE WTP FILTER PLANT NORTH EAST CREEK	Surface Water	39 Leslie Road

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program has conducted a Source Water Assessment. It is accessible at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/watersupply/SourceWaterAssessmentProgram/Pages/bycounty.aspx

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF CONTAMINANTS?

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 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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 water runoff, and septic systems.
Radioactive Contaminants	which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

LEAD

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 Ron Carter at the phone number above. 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 Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on October 16, 2024. An initial inventory of service line pipe materials located within our service area was required to be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available upon request.

Source water assessment has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS		
AL	**Action Level**	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
ALG	**Action Level Goal**	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.
Level 1 Assessment		A Level 1 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.
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 an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
MCL	**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL**	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.
MCLG	**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**	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.
MRDLG	**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal**	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	**Maximum residual disinfectant level**	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.
TT	**Treatment Technique**	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
V & E	**Variances and Exemptions**	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ABBREVIATIONS	
AVG	Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average
MREM	Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
PPT	One part per trillion is equivalent to one nanogram (ng/L) per liter. A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water
PPB	Micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
PPM	Milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
PCI/L	Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected

Our water system tested a minimum of 10 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	2025	1.4	ppm	0.06 – 3.2	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

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.

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Coliform (TCR)	In the month of June, 1 sample(s) returned as positive	Treatment Technique Trigger	0	Naturally present in environment

Lead and Copper	Period	90th Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of Sampled Results (Low - High)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper	2021 - 2023	0.061	< 0.005	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2021 - 2023	1	< 0.005	ppb	15	0	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)	Flying J Travel Plaza	2025	64	36.6 - 93	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Irishtown Road	2025	72	0 – 89.8	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Red Toad Road	2025	80	60.6 – 106.4	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	Flying J Travel Plaza	2025	79	28.8 – 169	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	Irishtown Road	2025	53	39.9 – 88.6	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	Red Toad Road	2025	80	37.9 – 155.9	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Barium	02/10/2025	0.045	0 - 0.038 – 0.045	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Di(2-ethlhexyl) phthalate	5/12/2025	1.67	0 – 1.67	ppb	6	0	Discharge from rubber chemical factories
Fluoride	2/10/2025	0.63	0 - 0.63	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; after additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2/10/2025	3.82	3.41 – 3.82	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	5/14/2024	2.8	2.6 - 2.8	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR)	COLLECTION DATE OF HV	HIGHEST VALUE (HV)	RANGE OF SAMPLED RESULT(S)	UNIT

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 1940's 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 six (6) PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each (four) 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each ten (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 one (1) (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

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 Standards	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	NO	0.29	July	Leslie Filter Plant North East Creek	Yes
100.00	12	NO	0.28	December	Rolling Mill Filter Plant Little North East Creek	Yes

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.

TOC	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
Carbon	7/14/2025	6.95	0.86 – 6.95	ppm	0	Naturally present in the environment

VIOLATIONS

During this period covered by this report we had the below noted violations:

Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation
1/1/2025 – 3/31/2025	Carbon, Total	Inadequate DBP Precursor Removal	Inadequate disinfection by-product precursor removal
4/1/2025 – 6/30/2025	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	MCL, LRAA	Locational running annual average was greater than MCL
7/1/2025 – 9/30/2025	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	MCL, LRAA	Locational running annual average was greater than MCL
7/2/2025 – 10/30/2025	Lead and Copper Rule Revisions	Notification, Known or Potential LSL	Failure to report the exact status of known or potential lead service lines to their primary state agency or the EPA.
10/1/2025 – 12/31/2025	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	MCL, LRAA	Locational running annual average was greater than MCL

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

- Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Additional Required Health Effects Violation Notices:

- Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts (DBPs). These byproducts include Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increase risk of getting cancer.

Reseller Violations and Health Effects Information

Take steps each day to save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense™ labeled products in your home, yard, and

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