

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2017  
**Town of Harpers Ferry**  
1435 Bakerton Road  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
PWS# WV3301912  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Why am I receiving this report?** In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, **the Town of Harpers Ferry** is providing its customers with this annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The information in this report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 or earlier if not on a yearly schedule.

If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact **Brandon Chualas, Water Systems Manager, (304)-535-6555 (Monday through Friday from 8:30AM-4:30PM)**. If you have any further questions, comments, or suggestions, please attend any of our regularly scheduled water board meetings held on **the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Town Hall, Harpers Ferry, WV.**

**Where does my water come from?** Your drinking water is **surface** water from the Elk Run Reservoir and a backup natural spring.

**Source Water Assessment:** The West Virginia Bureau of Health conducted a source water assessment in 2016 by Advanced Air and Water. The intake that supplies drinking water to the **Town of Harpers Ferry** has a higher susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of surface water supplies and the potential contaminant sources identified within the area. This does not mean that this intake will become contaminated only that conditions are such that the surface water could be impacted by a potential contaminant source. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. The source water assessment report which contains more information is available for review or a copy will be provided to you by calling the WV Bureau of Public Health at (304)-558-2981.

**Why must water be treated?** All drinking water contains various amounts and kinds of contaminants. Federal and state regulations establish limits, controls, and treatment practices to minimize these contaminants and to reduce any subsequent health effects.

**Contaminants in Water:** In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)-426-4791). The source of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes 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. Also substances resulting from human or animal 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, and 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 byproducts 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 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.

**Water Quality Data Table-** Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the table or report:

- **\*MCLG- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, or 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.
- **MCL- Maximum Contaminant Level**, or 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 technique.
- **MRDLG- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**, or the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **MRDL- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**, or the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contamination.
- **AL- Action Level**, or the concentration which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **TT- Treatment Technique**, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations that may be found in the table:

- **ppm-** parts per million or milligrams per liter

- **ppb**- parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **NE**- not established

The **Town of Harpers Ferry** routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables below show the results of our monitoring for contaminants.

**Table of Test Results – Regulated Contaminants – Town of Harpers Ferry**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Turbidity	N	0.05 100% of monthly samples < 0.3	NTU	0	TT	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon	N	0.19	ppm	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium	N	0.084	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling waste; erosion of natural deposits
Copper*	N	0.096	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride	N	0.57	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	N	4.47	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leakage from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Chlorine	N	1.0 Annual avg. Range 0.8 – 1.3	ppm	4 MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes
HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids)	N	18.6 Annual avg. Range 8.5 – 28.7	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes)	N	25.7 Annual avg. Range 9.8 – 37.8	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\*Copper and lead samples were collected from 10 area residences on 9/26/28/2016. Only the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is reported. None of the lead samples exceeded the MCL.

**Table of Test Results – Unregulated Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium	N	14.6	ppm	NE	20	Erosion of natural deposits

**We are pleased to report that The Town of Harpers Ferry met all federal and state water standards for the reporting year of 2017.**

**Additional Information:**

All other water test results for the reporting year of 2017 were all non-detects. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness in the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filters. 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. The **Town of Harpers Ferry** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for thirty seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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>.

This report will be mailed to all **Town of Harpers Ferry** customers. A copy will be provided to you upon request at our office during regular business hours.