

# Town of Onancock

## *2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

### **Introduction**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2008 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

**Mr. Bryan Horton, Water Operator (757) 787- 4274**

If you want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

**Town Manager's Office (757) 787-3363**

### **How can I get involved?**

The times and location of regularly scheduled town council meetings are as follows:

**Town Hall, 15 North Street: Fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm**

**Spanish (Español)** - Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir al information.

**French (Français)** – Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

### **Where does my water come from?**

The Town of Onancock receives its water from three new wells off of Hartman Avenue. We hope that you have noticed a change in your water for the better. We have an improved water system with three new wells, a new elevated tank, and the majority of the distribution system has been replaced. Thank you for your cooperation during this construction and change.

### **Source water assessment and availability**

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a Source Water Assessment of the Town of Onancock Waterworks in 2001. The report maybe viewed by contacting your water department. The assessment needs to be revisited for the new water supply wells.

### **Is my water safe?**

In 2008, your water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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/Center 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water supply does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminant	MCL G or MRD LG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b> (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )(ppm)	4	4	0.21	0.07 – 0.38	No	2008	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)(ppb)	NA	60	2	NA	No	2008	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	0.9	NA	No	2009	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.8	NA	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0.0006	ND – 0.0006	No	2008	Discharge from petroleum factories

## Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.232	0	No	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	1.5	3.3	1	No	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Definitions

- (AL) Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- HAA5 – Haloacetic Acids. The sum of 5 halo acetic acids that might be formed in drinking water by the addition of chlorine.
- (MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.
- (MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.
- MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfection Level means 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.
- (MRDLG) - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal means 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.
- (ND) Not Detected - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- (ppb) Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter
- (ppm) Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- (TT) Treatment Technique - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water ?**

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

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which much provide the same protection for public health.

### **Additional information on Lead**

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 associate with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Onancock 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 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 20 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3 – 5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce your next water bill!

### **For more information, please contact:**

<b>Bryan Horton</b>
<b>Town of Onancock</b>
<b>15 North Street, Onancock, Virginia 23417</b>
<b>(757)-787-4274</b>