



# TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

## 2004 WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Volume VII, June 2005

DE0000592

We are pleased to present you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you each and every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. This report will provide you with the information that will help you understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**The Town of Georgetown is happy to report that our drinking water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Georgetown safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.**

### WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The water supply for the Town of Georgetown is groundwater pumped from our wells that draw from the Columbia and Manokin Aquifers. The Town operates and maintains six groundwater wells (4 in the Columbia, 2 in the Manokin) throughout the Town.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes 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. In order to insure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

The Division of Public Health, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, has conducted source water assessments for nearly all community water systems in Delaware, including the Town of Georgetown. Contact the Town Hall at 302-856-7391 regarding how to obtain a copy of this assessment. The report includes information such as potential sources of contamination.

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 a 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, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **DAILY TESTING OF OUR WATER**

The Town of Georgetown and the State of Delaware, Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Town's water operators test each of our production facilities on a daily basis to ensure the quality of our water. In addition, samples from random points throughout the Town are taken periodically as an additional quality control measure.

The following table presents the results of our monitoring for regulated contaminants for the period of January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. The information contained in the table informs you that there was a detection of certain regulated contaminants found in our water system. However, each of these detections were well within the standards established by the State and EPA and do not constitute a violation of water quality standards. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic chemicals and radioactive substances. It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The State of Delaware requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of the contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

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

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Action Level (AL)*- the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Antimony	N	0.1 (2003)	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic	N	1.2 (2003)	ppb	n/a	50	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	N	0.0607 (2003)	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	1 (2003)	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	1.41	ppm	0.8 - 1.2	1.8	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	3.5	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	2.9 (2003)	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Nickel	N	0.1 (2003)	ppb	n/a	100	Naturally occurring
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	4.6	ppb	60	60	
Bromochloroacetic Acid	N	2.2	ppb			
<b>Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Iron (Fe)	N	4.5	ppm	0	0.3	
Sodium (Na)	N	47	ppm	0		
Alkalinity (Alk)	N	92	ppm			
PH	N	6.6-7.6	ppm		6.5-8.5	
Chloride (Cl)	N	16.9	ppm		250	
Hardness	N	14	ppm			
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	N	148	ppm		500	

\* All other contaminants were in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

(20) Nitrate Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome

**Nitrates:** As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

**Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

### **HOW AM I EFFECTED?**

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are also available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?**

The Town of Georgetown is pleased to be your water service provider and the Town Council welcomes your input on how we can provide the safest drinking water supply to our citizens. The Town Council meets at the Town Hall, 39 The Circle, Georgetown, Delaware on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is happy and willing to accommodate your comments. In addition, we are pleased to give guided tours of our water system to our customers during our normal business hours. Should you wish to schedule a tour or have any additional questions or comments regarding this report or your water quality, please feel free to contact Bill Bradley, Director of Public Works, or Dave Moore, Water Department Supervisor, at 302-856-9529 or 302-856-7391.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. The Town of Georgetown works around the clock to provide quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Our water is a community resource that deserves constant attention and protection. Your involvement is critical in maintaining a safe and affordable water system.