



TOWN OF DENTON

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2023

PWSID # 0050001

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We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is three (3) potable wells drilled at an average depth of 450 feet in the Piney Point Aquifer.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

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 available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mark Chandler of the Department of Public Works at 410-479-5446**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Council meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at the Denton Town Office.

The Water Treatment Division of the Department of Public Works routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1 to December 31, 2023**. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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

*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.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

*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.

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Beta/photon emitters	N	4.7	pCi/1	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon and Uranium	N	6.8	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	1.3	pCi/1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Arsenic (2022)	N	3.21	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Copper (distribution)	N	0.1238 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (distribution)	N	<5 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (2018)	N	0.521	ppb	0	100	Nickel occurs naturally in soil, groundwater and surface water and is often used in electroplating stainless steel and alloy products
Chromium (2018)	N	6.93	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2022)	N	1.36	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Products</b>						
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (distribution)	N	33	ppb	No goal for the total	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (distribution)	N	14	ppb	No goal for the total	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	N	3.0	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

*Note: Test results are for 2023 unless otherwise noted; All contaminants do not require annual testing; these are the most recent available results.*

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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 at the Caroline County Library or by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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.

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. Denton Public Works 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 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 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 2023. 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. To maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

**END OF REPORT**