



2010 Annual Water Quality Report

City of Falls Church
Water Utility

Dear Valued Customer:

We are pleased to present the following summary detailing the quality of the water provided to you over the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires utilities to issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report specifies where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment efforts are designed to prevent. The City of Falls Church Water Utility is committed to providing you with a safe, dependable, and sufficient water supply at reasonable rates.

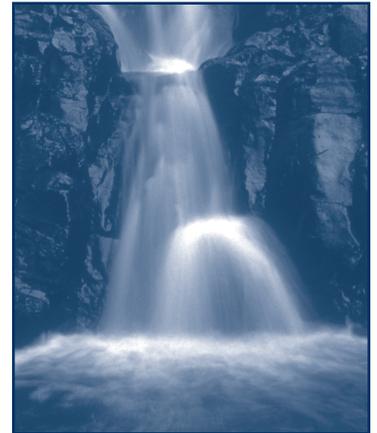
El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Ban bao cao co ghi nhung chi tiet quan trong ve pham chat nuoc trong cong dong quy vi. Hay nho nguoi thong dich, hoac hoi mot nguoi ban biet ro ve van de nay.

Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. More information is available online at www.drinktap.org and at www.epa.gov/safewater. If you have any questions about this report, please contact the Public Utilities Division at 703-248-5070 (TTY 711) or water@fallschurchva.gov. This report is also published on the City's Web site at www.fallschurchva.gov.

For information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about your drinking water, please call 703-248-5070 (TTY 711). Falls Church City Council meetings are generally held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall, located at 300 Park Ave., Falls Church VA 22046.

Wyatt Shields
City Manager



What Is the Source of My Drinking Water?

The City of Falls Church Water Utility is supplied by the Washington Aqueduct division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Raw water is drawn from the Potomac River and treated at the Washington Aqueduct's Dalecarlia and McMillan water treatment plants, both of which can provide water for distribution to the City's water customers.

A detailed source water assessment to find better ways to protect the water sources for the Washington Aqueduct was completed in 2002 by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). The assessment identified urban runoff, toxic spills, agriculture and inadequate wastewater treatment as potential contamination sources to the water supply. Contact the ICPRB at 301-984-1908 or visit their website at www.potomacriver.org for more information.

How Do I Read the Charts Below?

The City of Falls Church and our water supplier routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The first table shows the results from monitoring that we conducted, while the second table shows the results of monitoring by the Washington Aqueduct.

In the tables you will find many terms and abbreviations that are unfamiliar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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 or MCLG: 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 or MRDL: The highest level of a residual disinfectant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of residual disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Detected Level: The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparisons against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the single highest measurement, or an average of values, depending on the contaminant.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment; or other requirement that a water system must follow.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000.

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

Perchlorate Research Update

Perchlorate is a naturally occurring compound. It can also be a by-product of industrial activity. Its presence in drinking water is currently unregulated and utilities are not required to monitor for it. In 2007, the Washington Aqueduct began voluntarily participating in a non-regulatory perchlorate sampling project for the Potomac River funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which in 2009 proposed an interim health advisory of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

In 2009, finished water sample results for perchlorate collected by the Washington Aqueduct at both treatment plants ranged between none detected and 2.3 ppb. If you have special health concerns, you may want to get additional information from the EPA at www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/unregulated/perchlorate.html or contact the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 (TTY711).

Lead in Drinking Water

The City's monitoring continues to show overall lead levels below the Action Level established in the Lead and Copper Rule (see Table 1 below). 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.

Parameter	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Reporting Level	Range	Violation?	Major Sources
Total Coliform	% of samples	0	5	2	N/A	No	Naturally present in environment
Chlorine*	ppm	(MRDLG) 4	(MRDL) 4	3.2	0.3 - 4.1	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	41	19 - 67	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	0	60	30	17 - 44	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Copper	ppm	Action Level: 1.3	Action Level: 1.3	0.06	0.01 - 0.13	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	Action Level: 0	Action Level: 15	1	<0.5 - 6.5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

* Chlorine is combined with ammonia to form chloramine.

Parameter	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Reporting Level	Range	Violation?	Major Sources
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.66	0.18 - 0.66	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	0.08	ND - 0.08	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.04	0.03 - 0.04	No	natural deposits
Beta/photom emitters*	pCi/L	0	50**	4	ND - 4	No	Decay of natural & man-made deposits
Chromium	ppb	100	100	2	ND - 2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from steel & pulp mills
Combined radium 226/228*	pCi/L	0	5	2	ND - 2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2, 4-D	ppb	0	70	0.2	ND - 0.2	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.3	0.33 - 1.3	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	2.6	0.6 - 2.6	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	ppm	1	1	0.09	ND - 0.09	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppb	50	50	1	0.4 - 1	No	Discharge from mines
Simazene	ppb	4	4	0.07	ND - 0.07	No	Herbicide runoff
Total Organic Carbon	% ppm removal	N/A	TT	40%	25% - 71%	No	Naturally present in environment
			(25% - 35% required)				
Turbidity***	NTU	N/A	TT	0.12 = highest single hourly measurement. Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting turbidity requirements = 100%		No	Soil runoff
Xylenes (total)	ppm	10	10	0.0005	ND - 0.0005	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Water Quality Table Footnotes

* Most recent monitoring for this parameter was 2008.

** The MCL for Beta particles is written as 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

*** The turbidity level of filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of the measurements taken each month, and shall at no time exceed 1 NTU.

AL = Action Level	ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)	ND = none detected
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level	NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units	ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
TT = Treatment Technique	MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	N/A = not applicable
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	mrem/year = millirems per year	
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)	

The City of Falls Church 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 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Important Health Information About Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes limits on 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.

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).

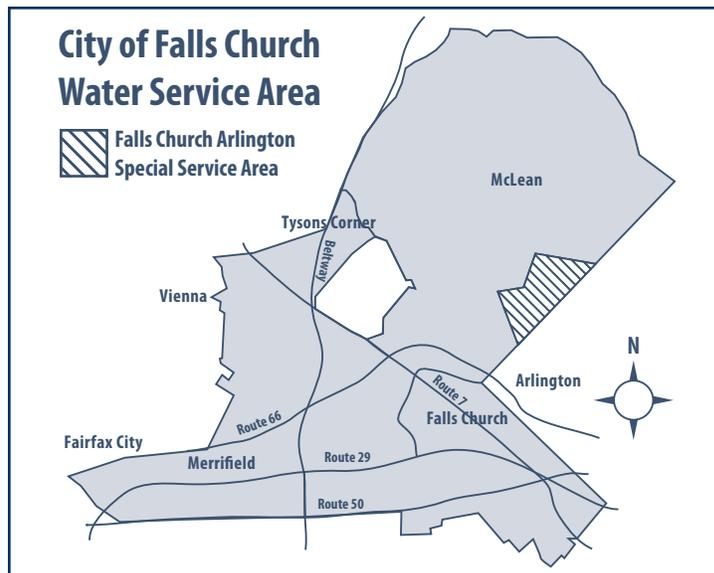
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting 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 storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, 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.

Water Treatment Process Changes

To improve the water treatment process and reduce operational risk, projects at the Washington Aqueduct are underway to replace the use of bulk liquid chlorine with sodium hypochlorite in the disinfection process, and to install a new caustic soda feed system to allow better fine tuning of pH levels for corrosion control. These projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.

The use of sodium hypochlorite and caustic soda may increase the level of sodium in the finished drinking water by up to 6 mg/L. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified 20 mg/L of sodium in drinking water as a "health-based value"



for an individual on a 500 milligrams per day restricted sodium diet. In 2009, sodium levels in the finished water ranged from 10 to 22 mg/L. For more information about sodium in drinking water, please visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/unregulated/sodium.html, or call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 (TTY711).

Should Some People Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Drinking Water

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products as Pollutants (PPCPs) refers, in general, to any product used by individuals for personal health or cosmetic reasons or used by agribusiness to enhance growth or health of livestock. PPCPs comprise a diverse collection of thousands of chemical substances, including prescription and over-the-counter therapeutic drugs, veterinary drugs, fragrances, lotions, and cosmetics.

More research is needed to determine the extent of possible ecological harm caused by PPCPs, and any role they may have in potential human health effects. The Environmental Protection Agency will continue to investigate this issue to consider if measures are necessary to protect the health of the public and the environment. In addition, through organizations such the Water Research Foundation, the City of Falls Church and other water utilities throughout the United States support drinking water research projects, including research on PPCPs.

Additional information about PPCPs can be found at <http://epa.gov/ppcp/>.



Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Falls Church does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its employment practices or in the admission to, access to, or operation of its services, programs, or activities. Cindy Mester, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, Virginia 22046 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the ADA non-discrimination requirement.

Want More Information? If you have any questions about this report, or need more information, please let us know. Utilities Customer Service Division (billing) questions): 703-248-5071 (TTY 711), Public Utilities Division (technical questions): 703-248-5070 (TTY 711) This report may be viewed on the Web at www.fallschurchva.gov. Please address correspondence to: **City of Falls Church Department of Environmental Services, Public Utilities Division, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.**

Ban bao cao co ghi nhung chi tiet quan trong ve pham chat nuoc trong cong dong quy vi. Hay nho nguoi ban thong dich, hoac hoi mot nguoi ban biet ro ve van de nay.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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



City of Falls Church
Department of Environmental Services
Public Utilities Division
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22046

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #2446
MERRIFIELD, VA

Postal Customer