

# 2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES

(FAIRVIEW ACRES/ESTATE, ROTHERWOOD & FOX HILL) PWSID #6047100

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

We are pleased to report to you that there were no detections of total coliform or fecal coliform in the monthly samples collected during calendar year 2014.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

No special precautions are necessary; however 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/Centers 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

The source of your drinking water is ground water. Fairview Acres/Estates and Rotherwood have three wells to support the subdivisions.

- Well #1: This well is located in the Fairview Acres and Estates Subdivision in Culpeper County, VA.
- Well #3: This well is located in the Fairview Acres and Estates Subdivision in Culpeper County, VA.
- Well A: This well is located in the Rotherwood Subdivision in Culpeper County, VA.

## Source water assessment and its availability

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) conducted a source water assessment of your system in 2002. The wells were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination. The report is available by contacting the VDH at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

## 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 (EPA) 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

If you have questions about this report, or 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: Country Water Systems at 540-825-2781.

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500gal/month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750gal/month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000gal/month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a more efficient model can save up to 1,000gal/month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Water Quality Data

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report.

# Water Quality Data Table for Fairview, Rotherwood & Foxhill

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 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 requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b> <i>(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)</i>								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.83	0.03	1.11	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	14.1	NA	NA	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	3.70	3.29	3.70	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.038	0.034	0.038	2012	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)			31.6	30.0	31.6	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>								
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.59	NA	NA	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead & Copper (Consumer Taps)	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> % Result	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.26	2012	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2012	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Unit Descriptions & Important Definitions	
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended.
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.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
Variations and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

## **Other Information**

### Treatment of your drinking water supply:

- A solution of soda ash is injected into the water system for corrosion control
- A chlorine solution is injected into the water for disinfection.

## **Additional Information for 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 associated with service lines and home plumbing. COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

Country Water Systems

P.O. Box 520 ♦ Culpeper, VA 22701

Phone: 540.825.2781 ♦ Fax: 540.825.8202

[www.countrywatersystems.com](http://www.countrywatersystems.com)