

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

## *Town of Clifton Forge*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2011 is designed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water quality. We are committed to providing 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 meets all state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, 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:

Mr. Robert Irvine or Mr. John Riley at (540) 863-2522
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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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).

### **SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Your drinking water is surface water obtained from Smith Creek. Complete treatment of the water is provided. Processes include coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, chlorination and fluoridation. Water is distributed throughout the system by booster pumping stations, storage tanks and distribution piping.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS**

A source water assessment for the Town of Clifton Forge Water Treatment Plant was completed by the VDH. This assessment determined that the Town's water source may be susceptible to contaminants at varying concentrations and changing hydrologic, hydraulic, and atmospheric conditions that promote migration of contaminants from land use activities of concern within the assessment area. More specific information may be obtained by contacting the water system representative listed above. Your water source, Smith Creek, is unique in that there is no upstream industry, agriculture or populated areas. This ensures a water supply of the highest possible quality.

## QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is routinely monitored according to Federal and State Regulations for a variety of contaminants. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Most of the results in the table are from testing done in 2011. However, the state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

### DEFINITIONS

In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

*Non-detects (ND)* – lab analysis indicates that the contaminant 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.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)* – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

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

*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.

*Variances and exemptions* – state or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### WATER QUALITY RESULTS

**Microbiological** – At least five bacteriological samples are collected from the distribution system each month.

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
total coliform bacteria	presence or absence	0	presence of coliform bacteria in >1 sample per month	0	no	monthly	naturally present in the environment

### Inorganic & Metal Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
<sup>1</sup> turbidity							
a) highest single measurement	TU	NA	TT	0.56	no	9/4/11	soil runoff  runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits  water additive which promotes strong teeth  erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge form metal refineries
b) lowest monthly percentage meeting 0.3 NTU limits	percent	NA	TT	99.9%	no	monthly	
nitrate	ppm	10	10	< 0.05	no	4/11/11	
fluoride	ppm	4	4	range 0.1 to 1.8	no	daily	
barium	ppm	2	2	0.019	no	4/11/11	

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity - turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
synthetic organic contaminants*	ppb	0		ND*		4/11/11 7/19/11	

\*No SOCs were detected in 2011. Analyses frequency is every three years.

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
total organic carbon	NA - ratio	NA	TT	All sampled removal ratios 1.00 or above	no	Monthly	naturally occurring

### Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
gross alpha radiation	pCi/l	0	15	0	no	4/15/08*	erosion of natural deposits
gross beta radiation	pCi/l	0	50	0.9	no	4/15/08*	erosion of natural deposits

\*Analyses frequency is every six years.

**Lead and Copper \***

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	AL Exceeded	Samples > AL	Typical Source of Contamination
lead	ppb	0	AL = 15	< 5	no	0	corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
copper	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.058	no	0	

\* Most recent monitoring period 2010.

\*Analysis frequency is twenty samples from the distribution system every three years.

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
total trihalomethanes*	ppb	0	80	21	no	7/20/11	by-product of drinking water chlorination
total haloacetic acids*	ppb	0	60	15	no	7/20/11	by-product of drinking water chlorination
No other VOCs detected**						4/11/11	

\*Analyses required every year for Stage 1 DBP Rule.

\*\*Analyses for all other VOCs required annually.

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards, EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

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. The Town of Clifton Forge 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**VIOLATION INFORMATION**

**Water Quality Violations** – None

**Monitoring and Reporting Violations** – None

**Variance** – This system operates with a continuing variance to the Virginia Waterworks Regulations. This variance waives this system from the requirement of having two operators at the plant when it is in actual operation. A cell phone is provided so the on duty operator can check in with the operator in responsible charge or the police department.

This Drinking Water Quality Report was prepared by the Town of Clifton Forge with the assistance and approval of the Virginia Department of Health. Please call if you have questions.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_