

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Town of Clifton Forge***

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2020 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. Tony Kimberlin at (540) 863-2522  
[www.cliftonforgeva.gov](http://www.cliftonforgeva.gov)

### **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. 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).

### **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 might 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>, 2020. Most of the results in the table are from testing done in 2020. 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:

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

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E-coli MCL violation has occurred and / or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (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 contamination.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) -** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non-detects (ND):** Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

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

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

**Variations and exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS

**Microbiological** – At least four 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	1	no	monthly	naturally present in the environment

Total Coliform bacteria samples are analyzed every month. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

### Inorganic & Metal Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
<sup>1</sup> Turbidity						daily	soil runoff
a) highest single measurement	NTU	NA	TT	0.10	no		
b) lowest monthly percentage meeting 0.3 NTU limits	percent	NA	TT	100%	no		
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.2-1.0	no	daily	water additive which promotes strong teeth
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.025	no	6/12/20	erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	1.4	no	6/12/20	erosion of natural deposits; de-icing salt runoff; water softeners

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

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC) – (Clifton Forge data)

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	<1 - 6.2	no	monthly	naturally present in the environment

### 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	0.16	no	6/12/20	erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Radiation	pCi/L	0	50*	-0.49	no	6/12/20	erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/L	0	5	0.20	no	6/12/20	erosion of natural deposits

Analyses frequency is every six years.

\* The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

### Lead and Copper (2019)

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	AL Exceeded	Samples > AL	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead	ppb	0	AL = 15	3.0	no	0	corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.106	no	0	

Analysis frequency - twenty samples from the distribution system every three years.

### Disinfection Byproduct Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample(s)	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	16 (8.2 - 18.7)	no	1/14/20 4/7/20 7/7/20 10/6/20	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	0	60	24 (8.1 - 42.1)	no		by-product of drinking water chlorination

Analyses required every quarter per Stage 2 DBP Rule.

### Disinfection Residual

Contaminant	MRDLG	MRDL	Average Level Found (Range)	Unit Measurement	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine	4	4	0.53 (0.40-0.80)	mg/L	no	monthly	water additive used to control microbes

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 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Sodium - There is presently no established standard for sodium in drinking water. An EPA advisory recommends water containing 30 to 60 mg/L should not be used as drinking water due to esthetics such as taste and color. Water containing more than 20 mg/L should not be used by persons whose physician has placed them on severely restricted sodium diets.

## 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: Tony Kimberlin

Date: 4-27-21