



**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016**  
**Town of Milton**  
**115 Federal Street**  
**Milton, DE 19968**  
**PWS ID# DE0000629**  
**May 23, 2017**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water 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 groundwater. Our wells draw from the Columbia and Chesapeake Aquifers.** The Town operates and maintains four groundwater wells (2 in the Columbia and 2 in the Chesapeake). This report contains very important information about your drinking water.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in conjunction with the Division of Public Health has conducted a source water assessment. Please contact the person listed below regarding its availability and how to obtain a copy. You may also review this at <http://delawaresourcewater.org/assessments/>. It provides information such as potential sources of contamination. Overall, Milton Water has a high susceptibility to nutrients, pathogens and pesticides. A very high susceptibility to petroleum hydrocarbons. A moderate susceptibility to PCBs, other organic compounds, metals and inorganic compounds.

The Town of Milton is pleased to be your water provider and the Town Council welcomes your input on how we can provide the safest drinking water supply to our citizens. The town council meets at the **Milton Library on Union Street, Milton, DE on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** and is willing to accommodate your comments. Should you have any additional questions or comments regarding this report or your water quality, please contact **Gregory Wingo at 302-684-4110.**

Public Health, Office of Drinking Water and the Milton Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, **2016.**

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 constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents 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:

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

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent 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.

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 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 contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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 (MCLG) - 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	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG/ MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>						
Chlorine (cl2)	N	0.4-0.5				
TTHM Total trihalomethanes]	N	7.23	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Combined radium	N	2.9* (2013)	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
Copper (0 samples exceeded the AL for Copper)	N	0.26* (2015) 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 (0 samples exceeded the Al for Lead)	N	6.7* (2015) 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Fluoride	N	0.28-.079	ppm	0.8 -1.2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	4.5-5.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>						
Chlordane	N	0-0.2* (2012)	ppb	0	2	Residue of banned termiticide
<b>Secondary Standards</b>						
Sodium (Na)	N	46.8* (2015)	ppm	0		
Alkalinity (Alk)	N	87* (2015)	ppm			
pH	N	6.35-6.97 (average 6.56)	ppm		6.5 – 8.5	
Chloride (Cl)	N	21.8-23.4 (Average 21.2)	ppm		250	
Sulfate	N	12-13.1 (average 12.47)	ppm		250	

\* 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 representative, are more than one year old.

**All other contaminants were ND in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.**

Disinfection By-Products: Last year’s water quality report should have had 2015 data for disinfection by-products (contaminants resulting from the addition of chlorine disinfection to your water). The Delaware office of Drinking water usually monitors for these contaminants, however they failed to do so in 2015. As a result, we cannot be certain of the quality of your water. But, as you can see they were tested in 2016. TTHM was &.23 ppb and Haa5 was ND. The health effects of these contaminants are as follows:

TTHM-Some people who drink water containing TTHMs (Trihalomethanes) in excess of the MCL over many years’ experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

HAA5-Some people who drink water containing HAA5s (Haloacetic) in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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. The Town of Milton 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 (1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)).

### **Violation: Lead and Copper Rule**

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 2014 and 2016 monitoring period, we did not complete all required monitoring to maintain compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water at that time. This violation was resolved after 2 complete 6-month monitoring periods and the results are reported above.

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. In order to insure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife.
- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals can be naturally [occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 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 constituents, 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.

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

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).

Please call our office if you have questions.

The Town of Milton works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. Our water is a community resource that deserves constant attention and protection. Your involvement is critical in maintaining a safe and affordable water system.