Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Bristol Water Department

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our wells draw from the aquifer coming from the Bristol Fruit Hills and meet all federal and state testing and quality requirements.

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 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. 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 waste-water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

The Bristol Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Twice a month, we are required to test for Total Coliform bacteria. ***All test results were negative.***

From the long list of substances for which we test, not a single one exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level. We're proud that your drinking water **exceeds** all Federal and State requirements. The EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE**. In fact, only the following substances could even be detected:

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants						
Radium 228 (2008)	*N*	*0.2*	*Pci/1*	*0*	*5*	*Erosion of natural deposits*
Uranium (2008)	*N*	*.0005*	*pCi/1*	*0*	*0.03*	*Erosion of natural deposits*
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (2009)	*N*	*0.049*	*ppm*	*2*	*2*	*Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits*
Sodium (2009)	*N*	*4.9*	*ppm*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*Runoff from road salt application*
Copper (2009)	*N*	*61*	*ppb*	*1300*	*AL=1300*	*Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives*
Lead (2009)	*N*	*3*	*ppb*	*0*	*AL=15*	*Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits*
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2011)	*N*	*2.7*	*ppm*	*10*	*10*	*Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits*
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Di(2ethylhexyl)phthalate (2010)	*N*	*1.0*	*ppb*	*0*	*6*	*Discharge from rubber and chemical factories*
Disinfection & Disinfection Byproducts						
Chlorine (2011)	*N*	*1.0max*	*ppm*	*MRDLG = 4*	*MRDL = 4*	*Water additive used to control microbes*
Total Trihalomethanes (2011)	*N*	*3.5*	*ppb*	*80*	*80*	*Disinfection byproduct*

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:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single foot in a round-trip from Chicago to Miami.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single inch in a round-trip to China.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" 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.
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 a health effect.
Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must *follow.*
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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 residual disinfectant level or 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.

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

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 Bristol 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 State Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact either Tim Hathaway or John Supper, the certified operator for the Bristol Water Department, at 848-7931. If you want to learn more about your town and have the opportunity to participate, please attend any of the regularly scheduled council meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which affect our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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