

Town of Narrows, Virginia

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2017

PWSID# 1071565

We are pleased to provide you with this year's annual water quality report. We provide this report to the consumer on a yearly basis to inform them about their water utility. Our goal is and always has been to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Where does my water come from?

The source of our water during the year 2017 was groundwater, under the direct influence of surface water, drawn from a well operated by the Giles County Public Service Authority (PSA) located in Giles County. The Orchard Well, groundwater, in South Narrows is also a source of our water. The Town went on line with the PSA on February 4, 2000.

The Town also has three storage tanks, each capable of holding 500,000 gallons, for a total of 1,500,000 gallons. These tanks are available for fire protection and for a steady supply of water in the event of a power outage or other natural disaster.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Narrows vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. Although our monitoring and testing shows that some contaminants have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE** at these levels.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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).

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (2) 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. (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (4) 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. (5) 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.

Source water assessment and its availability.

A source water assessment of the Narrows Wells and the Giles County PSA wells was conducted in 2002 by the Virginia Department of Health. 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 Town of Narrows at 540-726-2423.

The Town of Narrows and the Virginia Rural Water Association have developed a Wellhead Protection Program for our wells, to prevent groundwater contamination. The Wellhead Protection Area encompasses an area of a 1,000 foot circle in all directions from each well. Persons that have homes in this circle are encouraged to respect the ground within this area. The following are a few things that you can do in order to help ensure that we have safe water: (1) Do not pour used motor oil on the ground or in the curb and gutter. Do not pour old motor oil on dirt driveways. It is an old practice, but it is actually illegal and persons can be fined for doing so. (2) Old car batteries should not be stored outside of the home. The acid can leak into the ground and, over the period of a few years, can contaminate a well. (3) Care should be taken when storing old electrical transformers, paint cans, fuels, thinners, car motors, used car parts, containers of cleaning solution, used motor oil, transmission fluid, greases, or other hazardous materials outside of the home.

How Can I Get Involved?

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly-scheduled council meetings. They are held on the third Monday of each month at the Narrows Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Water Quality Data Table

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.

GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY							
WATER QUALITY RESULTS							
PSA Well #1 and Orchard Well							
Regulated Contaminants							
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range		Sample Date	Typical Source
				Low	High		
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	3.84	0.83	3.84	2017	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pci/L) Alpha Emitters	0	15	0.61	0.5	0.61	2013&2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (pci/L)	0	5	0.33	ND	0.33	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0218	0.0185	0.0218	2017	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.05	0.96	1.05	2017	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT, 1 NTU max	0.1	0.027	0.1	2017	Soil runoff
		TT, ≤0.3 NTU 95% of the	100%	NA	NA	Daily	

*Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

**Town of Narrows Distribution System
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products**

(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.22	0.48	1.61	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	12	5.3	9	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	8	0.95	7.5	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Town of Narrows Distribution System
Inorganic Contaminants**

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.17	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead* (ppb)	0	15	1.7	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

*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 Narrows 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 two 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Violation Information

During the sampling period June 1 through September 30, 2017, we did not complete all required monitoring for lead and copper tap samples. Ten samples were required and were analyzed; however, only nine sample results were acceptable for compliance determination. We plan to collect lead and copper tap samples for analysis from the appropriate sample locations during the June 1 through September 30, 2018, sampling period.

TOWN OF NARROWS—CROSS CONNECTION SURVEY: 2018

Part 1.

Address of Property: _____

Name: _____

Are you the owner or tenant? Owner Tenant

If the owner, tenant's name? _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Part 2.

Please place a checkmark beside any item that may apply to your premises:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside spigots without vacuum breaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installed vacuum breaker on outside spigots | <input type="checkbox"/> Private well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frostproof spigot with vacuum breaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo bowl/sink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frostproof spigot without vacuum breaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Mop sink/laundry sink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-siphon flush tank (commode) | <input type="checkbox"/> Solar heating system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard hydrant/yard spigot/standpipe | <input type="checkbox"/> Cistern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darkroom/photo development | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacuzzi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler system (outdoors) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot tub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler system (indoor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Process water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbonated drink machine | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaning equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Dye vat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Water trough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Booster pump |

If you have an existing outside spigot that does not have an installed vacuum breaker, please provide the date that you will have one installed: ____/____/____

Please offer a brief description of any other item(s) connected to the water system on your premises:

Comments:

Please return this form in person to the Narrows Town Office, or you may return it by mail by sending it to: Attn: Keshia Pyles, Town of Narrows, P.O. Box 440, Narrows, Virginia 24124.

Unit Descriptions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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	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	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	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	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.

For more information, please contact:

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