

# Town of La Plata 2011 Drinking Water Quality Report



PWSID: 008 0025

## Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2011. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of the Town of La Plata.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely conducts sanitary surveys, inspections and monitoring for all public water systems. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact

### For More Information:

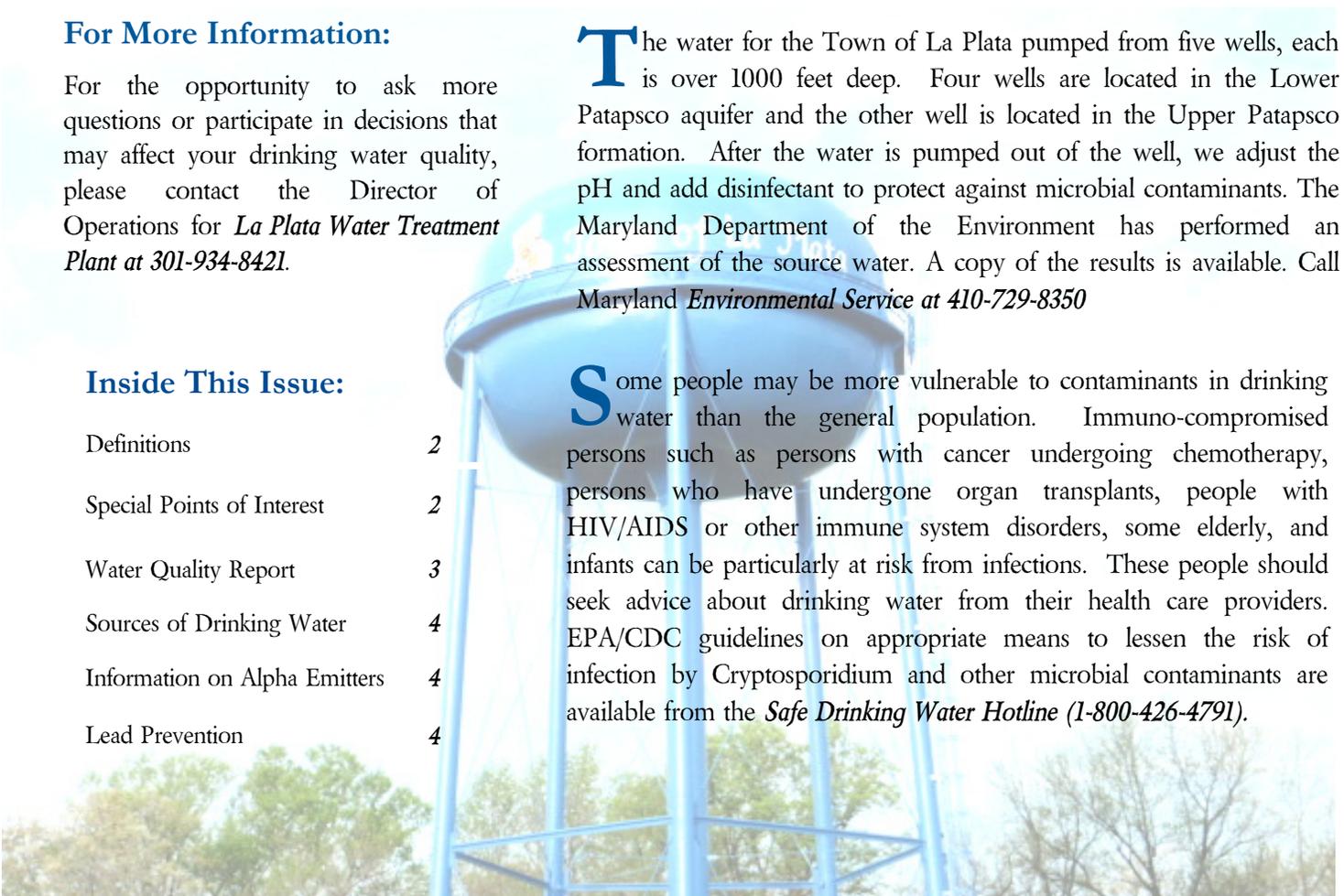
For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please contact the Director of Operations for *La Plata Water Treatment Plant at 301-934-8421*.

The water for the Town of La Plata pumped from five wells, each is over 1000 feet deep. Four wells are located in the Lower Patapsco aquifer and the other well is located in the Upper Patapsco formation. After the water is pumped out of the well, we adjust the pH and add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Maryland *Environmental Service at 410-729-8350*

### Inside This Issue:

Definitions	2
Special Points of Interest	2
Water Quality Report	3
Sources of Drinking Water	4
Information on Alpha Emitters	4
Lead Prevention	4

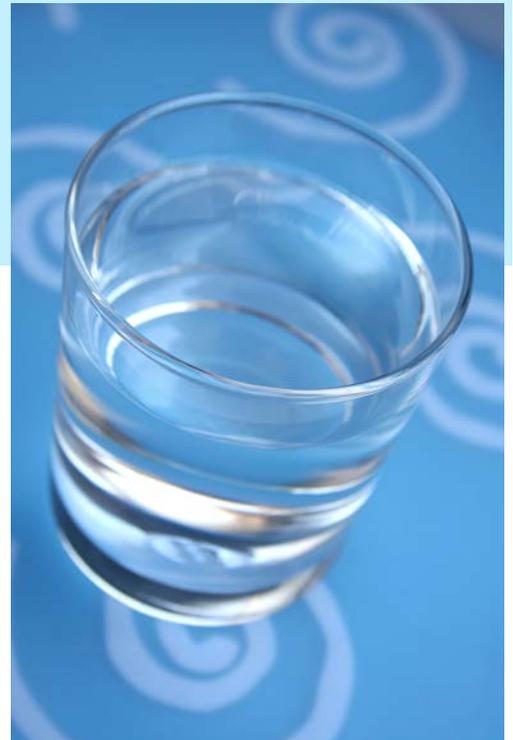
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants 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 microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.



# Town of La Plata Treated Water Quality Report 2011

## Definitions:

- ◆ **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 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of “cloudiness” of the water.
- ◆ **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units**. Units of measurement used to report the level of turbidity or “cloudiness” in the water.
- ◆ **pCi/l** - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- ◆ **ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- ◆ **ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter.



## Special points of interest:

The Town of La Plata Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds 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's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.

## Important information about Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 11 pCi/l which is below the 15 pCi/l.

# Town of La Plata Treated Water Quality Report 2011

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed EPAs MCL	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant</b>			
<b>Well 5 - Kent Ave on Kent Square - Plant LD. 01</b>			
Fluoride (2009 Testing)	4000 ppb	920 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta (2010 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	8.5 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
<b>Well 8 - Box Elder Road - Plant LD. 04</b>			
Fluoride	4000 ppb	900 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate (2006 testing)	6 ppb	1.1 ppb	0 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Discharge from rubber and/or chemical factories			
Gross Alpha (2009 Testing)	15 pCi/l	2.1 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2009 Testing)	5 pCi/l	1.0 pCi/l	N/A
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
<b>Well 9 - Clarks Run on Silver Linden Drive - Plant LD. 05</b>			
Fluoride (2011 Testing)	4000 ppb	910 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Alpha (2008 Testing)	15 pCi/l	7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta (2008 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	2 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2008 Testing)	5 pCi/l	0.2 pCi/l	N/A
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
<b>Well 10 - Washington Ave. - Plant LD. 06</b>			
Fluoride (2011 Testing)	4000 ppb	1.12 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Alpha (2008 Testing)	15 pCi/l	11 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta (2008 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	3 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2008 Testing)	5 pCi/l	4.6 pCi/l	N/A
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
<b>Well 11 - Rosewick Crossing - Plant LD. 07</b>			
Fluoride (2008 Testing)	4000 ppb	960 ppb	4000 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Alpha (2010 Testing)	15 pCi/l	4.9 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2010 Testing)	5 pCi/l	0.3 pCi/l*	N/A
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles			
** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			

Regulated in the Distribution	Action Level	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
Copper (2011 Testing)	1300 ppb (90th percentile)	275 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: corrosion of household plumbing			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2011 Testing)	80 ppb	1.7 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection			

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2011.

The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## Sources of Drinking Water

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 ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*



## Lead Prevention

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 La Plata 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 drinking 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 *EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791* or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Special Points of Interest

Maryland has a limited amount of potable water available from underground aquifers to serve the residents of Southern Maryland. The Town of La Plata has invested in several innovative technologies to help meet future needs, while conserving our natural resources. A new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has been installed to automate the Town's water meter reading and billing system. The Town no longer incurs the expense of sending personnel to read water meters. In the future, residents will have access to their account information over the internet.

In the near future, the new AMI system will enable the utility customers to set alerts to notify them of potential leaks in the system so they can eliminate them as soon as possible. The Town will also be able to set up leak detection on system mains to reduce major problems of leaking pipes under Town roadways. Utility customers are requested to ensure their phone and email contact information with utility billing are up to date by calling the Town at 301-934-8421 or emailing [cjohnson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townoflaplata.org).

Over the past few years the Town has invested in new technology, infrastructure and training of its personnel to improve the services we provide. In our attempt to reduce waste and maintain the highest quality water, we have become one of the Nation's most technologically advanced water systems. We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of La Plata and encourage anyone to contact us with questions or concerns.

*If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Jay Janney at 410-729-8350 or email your request to [jjann@menv.com](mailto:jjann@menv.com).*

