

# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2023

## KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION OF WATER & WASTEWATER FAIRLEE WATER SYSTEM

**MD 014-0003**

**FAIRLEE**

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023

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This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water, the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe.  
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

FAIRLEE is Groundwater

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2023. The purpose of this report is to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you, the customer, 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 and that we are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The water source for the *Fairlee/Georgetown* water system are two (2) groundwater wells located at the Fairlee water treatment plant site which draw water from the *Potomac Group Sediments*. The well water is treated by pH adjustment, iron removal, filtration and disinfection processes.

After treatment, the water is stored in a 100,000-gallon water tower located in Fairlee and in a 100,000-gallon water tower located in Georgetown. The water towers enhance domestic pressure and add volume for fire suppression purposes.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed a source water assessment of the Fairlee/Georgetown wells, which included a review of water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. It was determined from the evaluation that the Fairlee/Georgetown water supply is not susceptible to microbiological, inorganic, volatile organic or radiological contaminants. The treated water from the Fairlee water plant undergoes regular analysis for many different compounds and consistently meets all State and Federal requirements.

A copy of the report is available online at [www.mde.maryland.gov](http://www.mde.maryland.gov), the Public Works Department at 709 Morgnac Rd., Chestertown, MD 21620, and on the Kent County website at <https://www.kentcounty.com/water/reports>.

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 healthcare 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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. To obtain more information call the *EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants detected during the sampling required by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

**Source Water Information**

SWA - Source Water Assessment

<b>Source Water Name</b>		<b>Type of Water</b>	<b>Report Status</b>	<b>Location</b>
FAIRLEE WELL 2 KE810726	KE810726	GW	Y	NEAR 0 MI FAIRLEE APPROX. 1000FT E OF MD RT 298
FAIRLEE WELL 3 KE880409	KE880409	GW	Y	T OF FAIRLEE APPROX. 600 FT N OF FAIRLEE ROAD - RT 20

In this report, you will find many terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. The following definitions explain these terms.

- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowable in drinking water, MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **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 residual disinfectant level (MRDL)** – The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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.
- ◆ **Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)** – 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
- ◆ **Avg** – **Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an annual average of monthly samples.**

## Regulated Contaminants

### Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. Action

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Lead and Copper	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	0.03	0	ppm	Copper	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

### Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

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 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.

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.

na:

not applicable.

mrem:

millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb:

micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm:

milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT:

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Regulated Contaminants

<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Chlorine</b>	2023	0.7	0.5 - 0.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>	2023	6	5.7 - 5.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</b>	2023	13	13.1 - 13.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Barium</b>	01/07/2021	0.0558	0.0558 - 0.0558	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Chromium</b>	01/07/2021	3.2	3.2 - 3.2	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Fluoride</b>	01/07/2021	0.5	0.5 - 0.5	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Beta/photon emitters</b>	02/25/2020	9.6	9.6 - 9.6	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
<b>Combined Radium 226/228</b>	02/25/2020	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium</b>	02/25/2020	4.6	4.6 - 4.6	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Security Statement:** Water system security continues to be an enormously important issue. If you notice suspicious activities in or around local water utilities, such as persons cutting or climbing facility fencing, loitering, tampering with equipment or other similar activities, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately by dialing 911.

**Information Regarding Gross Beta Emitters:** Beta emitters are naturally occurring radiation 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 Beta, however, some people who drink water containing Beta emitters in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross Beta detected is 6.4 pCi/L, which is below the 50 pCi/L Maximum Contaminate Level.

**Water Conservation:** The Department encourages all consumers to practice conservation on a routine basis, and to report any major leaks, or needed repairs to the Department as soon as possible.

**Lead Statement (Not Present):** 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. Kent County Department of Public Works Division of Water and Wastewater Services is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Kent County Department of Public Works Division of Water and Wastewater Services and Christin Yiannakis. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. Our water system was not tested for PFAS in 2023. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) MCLs of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx)

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR. If you should have any questions regarding this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Kent County Department of Public Works Division of Water and Wastewater Services, at 410-778-3287. In addition, any resident may obtain a copy of this report at the main office Monday thru Friday during normal business hours or on the internet at <https://www.kentcounty.com/water/reports>.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
 PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) ANALYTICAL RESULTS  
 FAIRLEE  
 MD0140003

Analyte	FAIRLEE WELL 2 KE810726*	FAIRLEE WELL 3 KE880409**
11Cl-PF3OUdS	ND	ND
ADONA	ND	ND
9Cl-PF3ONS	ND	ND
HFPO-DA	ND	ND
N-EtFOSAA	ND	ND
N-MeFOSAA	ND	ND
PFBS	ND	ND
PFDA	ND	ND
PFDoA	ND	ND
PFHpA	ND	ND
PFHxS	ND	ND
PFHxA	ND	ND
PFNA	ND	ND
PFOS	ND	ND
PFOA	ND	ND
PFTA	ND	ND
PFTrDA	ND	ND
PFUnDA	ND	ND
Total PFOA/PFOS	ND	ND

\* Indicates that the unfinished water sample was collected on October 27, 2021.

\*\* Indicates that the unfinished water sample was collected on December 20, 2021.

All results are in parts per trillion (ppt).