

2019 Water Quality Report
LEWES BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
107 Franklin Ave., Lewes, Delaware 19958
PWS ID# DE0000602
June 4, 2019

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Spanish (Español): Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Where does my water come from?

Your water is groundwater that comes from the unconfined Columbia Group – Pocomoke Aquifer.

Source water assessment and availability

Our source water assessment is available through: <http://delawaresourcewater.org/assessments/>

The Source Water Assessment's Summary of Our System's Susceptibility to Contamination

Lewes BPW is exceedingly susceptible to nutrients, metals and other inorganic compounds based on the analytical data. It has a very high susceptibility rating for petroleum hydrocarbons based on discrete sources and the analytical data. It has a high susceptibility for pathogens, pesticides, PCBs, and other organic compounds land use activities.

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. 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.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Darrin Gordon at 302-645-6228**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend the Lewes Board of Public Works meeting the 4th Wednesday of each month or as posted on the Lewes BPW website.

Additional information about 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. Lewes Board of Public Works 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 or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead Action Level Exceedance – August 2018 the Lewes Board of Public Works found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in 3 out of 12 participating structures. We were on a triennial monitoring regiment for lead testing. Due to the violation we are now sampling for lead every six (6) months to closely monitor the lead levels in the system. As of May 20, 2019, the six (6) month testing we have met the State requirements for lead, having detected exceedance of lead in 1 out of 20 participating structures.

Additional Health Effects Information

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 for advice from your health care provider.

The lead health effects statement is as follows: “Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.”

For more information, contact:

Darrin Gordon
107 Franklin Ave.
Lewes, DE 19958
(302) 645-6228

Water Quality Data Tables

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Table of Regulated Contaminants

Lead and Copper	Units	MCLG	AL	90 th Percentile	# sites over AL	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead	ppb	0	15	26.5	3	2018	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.621	0	2018	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing system
Regulated Contaminants	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	No goal for the total	80	21	21.2-21.2	2018	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.1	0.9-1.1	2018	N	Water additive to control microbes
Fluoride	ppm	2	2	0.9	0.725-1	2018	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	6	5.3628-6.8128	2018	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	0.028	0.028-0.028	2018	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Delaware Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Contaminants	State SMCL	Average	Range
Alkalinity	n/a	27	27
Chloride	250 ppm	24.46	21.545-26.1815
Sodium	n/a	24.3822	24.3822
Sulfate	250 ppm	17.09	12.242-26.2716
pH	6.5-8.5	7.72	7.46-7.95

Definitions

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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.
SMCL	SMCL: Suggested Maximum Contaminant Level for aesthetic contaminants.
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.

We, at Lewes Board of Public Works, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children’s future.

This CCR Report was prepared in collaboration with Delaware Rural Water Association and the Lewes Board of Public Works.

