

# 2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

## FROM THE MARS BOROUGH WATER DEPARTMENT

PWS # 5100049

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su aqua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.)**

We are pleased to present to you this annual consumer confidence report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to supply you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water wells. The Borough wells and treatment plant are located south of town along the Mars Valencia Road.

A ground water protection plan has been developed for Mars Borough. Copies are available from our office at 598 Spring Avenue. This plan can supply more information such as potential sources of contamination. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets state and federal requirements. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Ed Dorsey at (724) 625-1480 or the Borough office at (724) 625-1858.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month, at 7:00 pm, at the Mars Municipal Building located at 598 Spring Avenue.

Mars Borough routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on page 2 shows the results of our monitoring for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations that you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have 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 penny in \$ 10,000.

**Parts per Billion (ppb)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**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.

**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 Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (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 contamination.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (2020)	0.53	0.53	0.53-1.5	ppm	8/17/2020	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

**DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS:**

<i>Chemical Contaminants</i>								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	0.22	N/A	ppm	7/17/18	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2*	2*	0	N/A	ppm	7/17/18	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10	10	0	N/A	ppm	8/13/2020	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	70	2.18	N/A	ppb	11/13/2020	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	35.4	N/A	ppb	8/5/2020	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60	N/A	0	N/A	ppb	8/5/2020	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (Distribution)	MRDL = 4	MRDL G=4	1.03 (May)	0.46-1.03	ppm	2020	N	Water additive used to control microbes

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

<i>Lead and Copper</i>							
Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead (2019)	15	0	0	ppb	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2019)	1.3	1.3	0.321	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

**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. Borough of Mars Water Department 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>.

**Violations:** During 2020 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, we failed to monitor for 20 Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCS) at 2 of our 3 sources and also missed a Distribution Chlorine sample the week of 12/27/20 through 1/2/21. Public Notification is enclosed at the end of this report.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

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 Drinking Water Hotline. You may also visit EPA's website at ([www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)).

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 presents 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 salt and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

It is important to understand that MCLs are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day, at the MCL level, for a lifetime, to have a one in one million chance of having the described health effect.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER FAILURE TO MONITOR

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ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Mars Borough Water Works

Our water system violated drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2020 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, we failed to monitor for 20 Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCS) at 2 of our 3 sources and also missed a Distribution Chlorine sample the week of 12/27/20 through 1/2/21 and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

#### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCS) and Distribution Chlorine, and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were or will be taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
*Volatile Organic Chemicals	Annually-3 samples	1	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2021
Distribution Chlorine	1 sample Weekly	0	1 sample 12/27/20 to 1/2/21	1/8/21

*\*Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCS)-(20): 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Xylenes (Total), Dichloromethane, O-Dichlorobenzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Trichloroethylene, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Tetrachloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Styrene*

#### What happened? What was done?

*During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020 we failed to monitor for 20 Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCS) at 2 of the 3 water sources and also missed a Distribution Chlorine sample the week of 12/27/20 through 1/2/21. The VOC'S will be taken in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 and the Chlorine sample was taken on 1/8/21.*

For more information, please contact Ed Dorsey at 724-625-1480.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you **Mars Borough Water Works**.