

# PLEASANT VALLEY

PWSID # 0060009

Community Water System • Carroll County, Maryland

## 2003 Annual Water Quality Report

*This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the Carroll County Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of the water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to the community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have questions, call the Bureau of Utilities at 410-386-2164.*



*Pleasant Valley 2003 Annual Water Quality Report*

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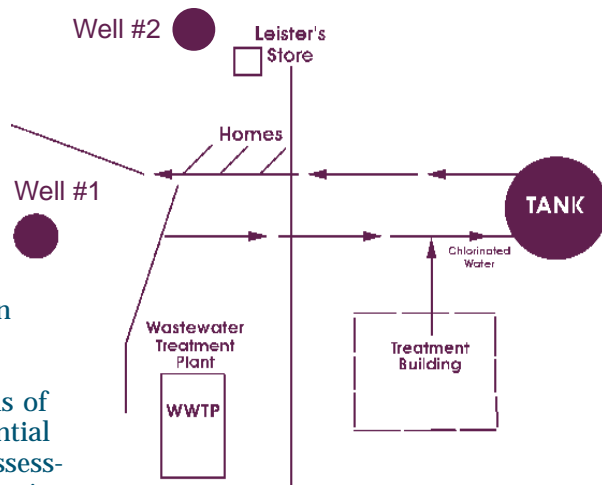
### Water Source

The source of Pleasant Valley's water supply, which services the Pleasant Valley Community, is an unconfined fractured-rock aquifer. The Pleasant Valley area, underlain by the Upper Pelitic Schist, is in the Wissahickon Formation.

The groundwater wells are not under the influence of surface water. Well No. 1, producing 10 gallons per minute (gpm), was the primary well source since March of 1991. It is located west of Halter Road. Well No. 2, capable of producing at least 15 gpm, was placed into service on March 27, 2001. Well No. 2 is the primary supply well under Water Appropriation Permit No. CL95G053(02). It is located 750 feet northeast of Well No. 1 in the 1300 block area of Pleasant Valley Road.

A source water assessment was performed and the susceptibility analysis of Pleasant Valley's water supply is based on the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. The assessment determined that Pleasant Valley's water supply is susceptible to contamination by nitrates and Radon-222. The water supply is not susceptible to volatile organic compounds or synthetic

### Pleasant Valley Treatment Process



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organic compounds. Its susceptibility to microbiological contaminants is unknown due to the lack of raw water sampling data for Well No. 1. Copies of the source water assessment are available at the Bureau of Utilities, Carroll County Government, 225 North Center Street, Room 218, Westminster, MD 21157.

## Important Health Information

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:

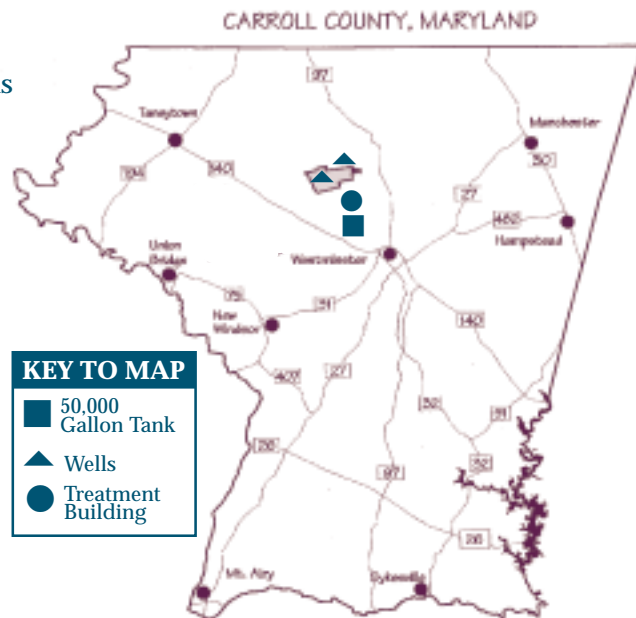
- (A) **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) **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.
- (E) **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or 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.

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. The 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 (800-426-4791).

## *Cryptosporidium* and Radon Information

In 1999, Pleasant Valley Community Water System tested for and did not detect *Cryptosporidium* in the water. *Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. Immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



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# Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Copper <sup>1</sup>	9/15/03	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.036	0.02 - 0.10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>2</sup>	9/15/03	ppb	AL=15	0	<2.0	<2.0 - 3.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate <sup>3</sup>	2003	ppm	10	10	6.5	4.7 - 6.5	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Turbidity <sup>4</sup>	2003	NTU	TT	na	0.080	0.049 - 0.080	Soil runoff

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
TTHMs <sup>5</sup>	11/20/01	ppb	80	na	3.2	—	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Secondary Inorganic Chemical Parameters	Date Tested	Unit	SMCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
pH <sup>6</sup>	2003	pH Units	na	na	8.6	6.6 - 8.6	Erosion of natural deposits; algae blooms

## Key to Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

SMCL = Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

\* Indicates SMCL

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

na = Not Applicable

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

TT = Treatment Technique

*(continued from page 2)*

The Bureau of Utilities tested for Radon on January 3, 2003. The water showed a Radon level of 4,200 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Additional monitoring is planned for 2004. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing a regulation which will specify a Maximum Contaminant Level for Radon, proposed at a range of 300 - 4,000 pCi/L. Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States and can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to Radon entering the home through soil, Radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of Radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing Radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing Radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about Radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of Radon in your air is four picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a Radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State Radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline at (800-SOS-RADON).

## An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked "Detected Level" shows the highest test results during the year. "Major Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. The State allows the County to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the Pleasant Valley data, though representative, is more than one year old.

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## Important Drinking Water Definitions

**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 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.

**Detected Level:** The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

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

**Range:** The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Water Quality Table Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The samples tested for Copper did not exceed the current action level of 1.3 ppm.

<sup>2</sup> The samples tested for Lead did not exceed the current action level of 15 ppb.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water.

<sup>5</sup> Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant group, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants:

- Haloacetic acids: dichloroacetic acid (zero); trichloroacetic acid (0.3 mg/L)
- Trihalomethanes: bromodichloromethane (zero); bromoform (zero); dibromochloromethane (0.06 mg/L)

<sup>6</sup> pH is shown as a monthly average

For additional information, contact Mrs. Ann L. Baugher, Administrative Office Associate, Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works, at 410-386-2164; or consult our web site at [ccgov.carr.org/utility](http://ccgov.carr.org/utility). For further information, see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html); and, [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com). for Water Quality Data on other community water systems throughout the United States; or by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

For billing information, call 410-386-2000, and for Operation and Maintenance inquiries, call 410-386-2164, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. An answering machine is available after hours.

The Board of Carroll County Commissioners meets regularly with Department staff. The Carroll County Commissioners' weekly agenda is available on the Internet at [ccgov.carr.org/meetings/index.html](http://ccgov.carr.org/meetings/index.html) or by calling the Commissioners Office at 410-386-2043. The Carroll County Commissioners welcome and encourage public participation.



American Water Works Association  
*The Authoritative Resource for Safe Drinking Water* <sup>SM</sup>

Member: American Water Works Association (AWWA)  
Chesapeake Section of the American Water Works Association (CSAWWA)  
Maryland Rural Water Association  
Water Environment Federation (WEF)  
Chesapeake Water Environment Association (CWEA)  
Water and Waste Operators Association (WWOA)



PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM



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