BRAMBLE HILLS

PWSID # 0060016

Community Water System • Carroll County, Maryland

2006 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.

Bramble Hill 2006 Annual Water Quality Report

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Department of Public Works
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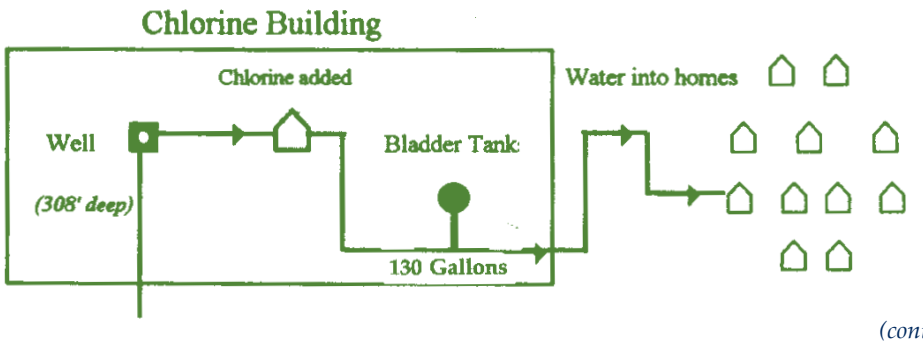
Overview

On 6/11/04, Carroll County, via court order, resumed operations at Bramble Hills.

Water Source

The Bramble Hills service area is supplied by groundwater pumped from a single well in the Ijamsville phyllite, located one-half mile south of Westminster in Carroll County.

Bramble Hills Treatment Process



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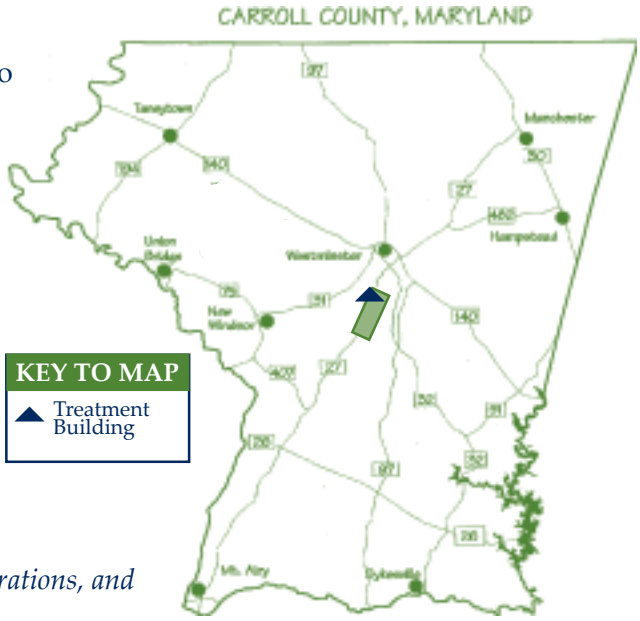
Important Health Information

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 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 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 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).

Radon Information

The Bureau of Utilities tested for Radon[1] in 2005. The water showed an average Radon level of 2,053 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). 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 (800–SOS-RADON).

An Explanation of the Water Quality Table

It's easy! 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" show 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 Bramble Hills data, though representative, is more than one year old.

Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Copper	12/31/06	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	.92	-	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	12/31/06	ppb	AL=15	0	6	-	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	1/24/06	ppm	10	10	1.5	<.05 - 1.5	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides & herbicides)	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	11/21/05	ppb	6	0	1.3	--	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

Radioactive Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Range	Major Sources
Gross Beta[2]	08/18/03	pCi/L	50	0	3.0	--	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross Alpha	08/18/03	pCi/L	15	0	1.0	--	Erosion of natural deposits

Key to Table

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (μg/L)
na = Not Applicable

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
[1]MCL regulation pending
[2] The EPA considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

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.

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.

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For additional information, contact Mr. Gregory Wantz, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works, at 410-386-2164; or consult our web site at ccgov.carr.org/utility. For further information, see U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html, and www.waterdata.com.; 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. to 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 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 SM

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Water Environment Federation (WEF)
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Water and Waste Operators Association (WWOA)

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