



THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS

SETTLED 1670-1680

INCORPORATED 1804

300 MILL STREET
P.O. BOX 206
ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663

TELEPHONE: 410.745.9535

FACSIMILE: 410.745.3463

March 30, 2023

Dear Water Customer,

The Town of St. Michaels was recently notified of a domestic water system violation of the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standards for arsenic. As required by law, we are sending out this notice to ensure customer awareness of the violation. Please note that there is no danger to the domestic water supply.

Arsenic is a natural compound of the earth's crust and is widely distributed throughout the air, water and land. The EPA domestic water standard for arsenic is a running average of 12 months with an allowable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.010 milligrams/Liter (mg/L). Starting in the second quarter of 2022, Water Testing Laboratories tested the Town's domestic water which showed an arsenic reading of 0.017 mg/L. At that point, St. Michaels water system operators began the process of identifying treatment solutions associated with high arsenic levels and requesting competitive bids to replace one of four media filters in the Town's two pump stations. All efforts were made to expedite replacement of the problematic filter with approval of a bid by the Town Commissioners on August 10, 2022. The filter replacement was completed in early September, 2022. Subsequent water testing in October, 2022 showed arsenic levels dropping significantly to the "ND-Not Detected" level or less than 0.0010 mg/L, well below the MCL. The most recent water test in February, 2023 was also "ND-Not Detected" for arsenic, illustrating the efficacy of the media filter replacement in reducing arsenic levels. The Town is in full compliance with all other EPA drinking water regulations.

As stated by the State of Maryland, there was no immediate risk to the public. If there had been, all water customers would have been notified promptly. As stewards of our domestic water supply, we are disappointed in receiving this violation. Nonetheless, we have learned much from this incident and have put additional safeguards in place to ensure future compliance with all federal and state drinking water standards. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions or concerns.

Rob Straebel
Town Administrator

Brian Thompson
Public Works Operations Manager

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Town of St. Michaels has levels of Arsenic above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system is in violation of a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water. Compliance determination for arsenic is determined by a running annual average of a 12-month period. The average concentration for the 2nd quarter based on the 12-month period ending in June 2022 is 0.017 mg/L. The average concentration for the 3rd quarter based on the 12-month period ending in September 2022 is 0.013 mg/L. The average concentration for the 4th quarter based on the 12-month period ending in December 2022 is 0.011 mg/L. The standard for Arsenic is 0.010 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

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 your drinking water meets health standards.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years, could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Steps We Are Taking: Peninsula Water Conditioning came in and removed, disposed Arsenic media and gravel bedding. Installed new gravel and Arsenic media beds. Chlorinated, backwash, rinse and place filter in service. Has been corrected and Arsenic is below EPA and MDE regulations.

For more information, please contact (Name) Brian Thompson of Town of St. Michaels at [Contact phone] 410-745-9535 or [Contact address] 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, MD 21663

For information regarding Arsenic in drinking water please call the MDE Water Supply Program at (410) 537-3729.

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.

State Water System ID# **MD0200006**. Date distributed: March 22, 2023.