

BOONSBORO/KEEDYSVILLE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM 2011 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT PWSID #0210002

We are very pleased to present to you the Boonsboro/Keedysville Regional Water System's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the 2011 calendar year. Our goal is to consistently provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water by continuing to improve the water treatment process and taking the extra steps to protect our valuable water resources. We are committed to ensuring the safe quality of the water that reaches your tap which is reflected in the monitoring results included in this report.

Your drinking water comes from the Tomstown Dolomite, a ground water source made of carbonate rock, which forms an aquifer feeding a combination of wells and springs which is filtered, chlorinated and processed *with fluoride* through the Boonsboro and Keedysville Water Treatment Plants. The Boonsboro/Keedysville Water System staff diligently monitor for constituents in your drinking water insuring safety according to Federal and State laws.

Your water is tested because all sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Is my water safe? Last year we conducted tests for over 118 contaminants. We only detected 7 of those contaminants, and found none at a level higher than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink.

Do I need to take special precautions? Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations set limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 those 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* 1-800-426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can also 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. 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 drinking 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 EPA *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

A Source Water Assessment for the Boonsboro/Keedysville Regional Water System was prepared by the Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program and is available for public review by contacting the Town of Boonsboro at 301-432-5141 or the Town of Keedysville at 301-432-5795.

To learn more about your town's water system, please attend the monthly meeting of the Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission or the Keedysville Water Board. For information regarding meeting dates, times and locations, please contact your local town hall or visit www.town.boonsboro.md.us and www.keedysvillemd.com