

# City of Frostburg 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 001-0011



## Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

**W**e're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2023. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, began operating the water treatment facility in January 2002 and prepared this report on behalf of the City of Frostburg.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely complete Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Jay Janney** at **410-729-8361**, or by e-mail at [jjanney@menv.com](mailto:jjanney@menv.com).

### For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please visit the City's website at [www.frostburgcity.org](http://www.frostburgcity.org) to find upcoming meetings of the Mayor and Council. Customers may also call 301-689-6000 for more information.

### Inside This Issue:

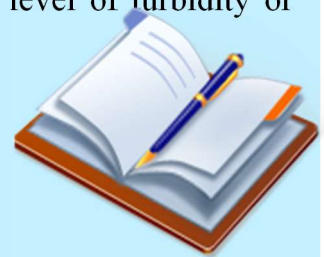
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**S**ome people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS 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/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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

# City of Frostburg Treated Water Quality Report 2023

## Definitions:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- **Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of “cloudiness” of the water.
- **NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Units of measurement used to report the level of turbidity or “cloudiness” in the water.
- **ppb** - parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm** - parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **ppt** - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter



The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) operates and maintains the water treatment facility for the City of Frostburg. The facility is rated to treat 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and currently averages 1.2 MGD. The Frostburg water treatment facility receives raw water from numerous sources. MES maintains 29 springhouses with related collection and transmission equipment, and two deep wells in the Pocono aquifer. The balance of raw water is pumped from the Piney Dam reservoir in Garrett County. All raw water sources are commingled in a one-million-gallon supply reservoir which feeds the water treatment facility. The raw water is treated using a surface water treatment plant which consists of four basic components: coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. These processes are specifically designed to treat the water at Frostburg. The treated water is stored in two finished water reservoirs. The last steps of treatment include the addition of Chlorine for disinfection, fluoride for dental protection and a corrosion inhibitor to help maintain the distribution system.

MES provides personnel who are properly trained and licensed to operate and maintain the water treatment facility and related equipment in accordance with all applicable regulations. The operational tasks include daily visits to the water treatment facility, checking the facility, performing daily process testing, performing daily, weekly, and monthly calibrations/maintenance, performing all outside grounds maintenance, and continuing on-going quality control and preventative maintenance programs. The Maryland Environmental Service procures all necessary supplies and materials outlined in the operating budget for the efficient control of treatment, compiles and submits all reports required by Local, State, and Federal Regulatory Agencies and provides response 24 hours per day in the event of emergency situations such as an equipment malfunction.

## Special Points of Interest:

- The water at Frostburg is tested for over 100 different compounds.
- The City of Frostburg’s drinking water met all State and Federal requirements.

# City of Frostburg Treated Water Quality Report 2023

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
	EPAs MCL	Detected	(EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant</b>			
Nitrate	10 ppm	1.5 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Sources of Contaminant: Runoff from the use of fertilizer			
		Range (1.5 to 1.5 ppm)	
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	0.52 ppm	4.0 ppm
Typical Sources of Contaminant: Added for dental protection			
		Range (0.52 to 0.52 ppm)	
Barium	2 ppm	0.052 ppm	2 ppm
Typical Sources of Contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
		Range (0.052 to 0.052 ppm)	
Chlorine	4 ppm	1.07*	4 ppm
Typical Sources of Contaminant: Added for microbial protection			
		Range (0.97 to 1.38) * Average	
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>			
	EPAs MCL	Detected	(EPA's MCLG)
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80 ppb	(Range 24.4 - 76.8)* 52 ppb*	N/A
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	(Range 11.9 - 26)* 18 ppb**	N/A
Typical Source of Contaminants: By-product of drinking water disinfection			
* Highest Individual Result from a Single Location			
** Four monitoring sites are individually averaged and reported quarterly. Compliance is determined on a Locational Rolling Annual Average (LRAA) of the individual sites. Value reported is the highest LRAA during 2023.			
<b>Treatment Technique</b>			
Turbidity	TT = filtration 0.3 NTU (Range 0.02- 0.18) Average 0.08 NTU		
Typical Source of Contaminant: Soil Runoff			
Turbidity cannot exceed 1.0 NTU and must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU taken each month-in at least 95% of the measurements.			
The water plant consistently met all of the turbidity requirements in 2023.			

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2023. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each quarter, and the system met all TOC removal requirements. During 2023 the minimum required TOC removal rate was between 49% to 55%. The average removal rate during 2023 was 53%.

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## Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required unregulated contaminants to be monitored. UCMR5 testing consisted of 29 PFAS parameters and lithium for all public water systems. The City of Frostburg tested for UCMR5 and all of the results were less than the maximum reporting limits.

## Sources of Drinking Water

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. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds 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's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. You may read this source water assessment by contacting the City's office.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*

## Lead Prevention

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. The City of Frostburg Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, please contact [jjanney@menv.com](mailto:jjanney@menv.com) for a list of laboratories in your area that provide drinking water testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. 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. 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. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>. No PFAS sampling was conducted for Frostburg Water Treatment System during 2023.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Thank you for another great year of water quality!

