



*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2012  
The Town of Felton  
P.O. Box 329 Felton, Delaware 19943  
PWS ID# DE0000580  
June 12, 2013*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. **Our water source is groundwater.** We have three wells, two draw from the Frederica Aquifer and one draws from the Piney Point Aquifer.

The Division of Public Health in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has conducted a source water assessment. If you are interested in reviewing this assessment, please contact Felton Town Hall @ 284-9365 regarding its availability and how to obtain a copy of this assessment. **You may also review this at <http://www.wr.udel.edu/swaphome/swassessments.html>.** Finally, the three wells for the Town of Felton are located in the coastal plain, are screened in confined aquifers, and have good integrity; therefore, the wells for the Town of Felton are classified as having **Low Vulnerability**.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ralph Hughes @ 284-9365. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 24 East Sewell Street.

Public Health, Office of Drinking Water and the Felton Water Department routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. 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 water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 “Goal” (MCLG) is 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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)* –The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)* –The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG/ MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Free Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	N	.11-2.03	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control Microbes.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
9. Arsenic	N	10.1 6.1 –10.1	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
14. Chromium	N	4.1-10.8	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
15. Copper 0 sites exceeded AL	N	1.63 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Fluoride	N	1.36 – 1.56	ppm	0.8 -1.2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
18. Lead 0 sites exceeded AL	N	5.2 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	N	.8	ppb	n/a	100	Naturally occurring
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds</b>						
76. TTHM Total trihalomethanes	N	23.32 *2010	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG/ MRDLG	MCL/ MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
68.Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	4.82 *2010	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<b>Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
79. Iron (Fe)	N	0.14	ppm	0	0.3	
80. Sodium (Na)	N	134.7**	ppm	0	n/a	**
81. Alkalinity (Alk)	N	292	ppm		n/a	
82. pH	N	7.7	ppm		6.5 – 8.5	
83. Chloride (Cl)	N	14.6	ppm		250	
84. Hardness	N	12.6 *2009	ppm		n/a	
85. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	N	366 *2010	ppm		500	
Manganese	N	0- .5 (Average 0.25)	ppb		50	
Bromochloroacetic acid	N	2.3 *2007	ppb	60	n/a	Formed by the chlorination of drinking water containing naturally occurring bromide
91. Sulfate	N	9.7 *2011	ppm		250	

\*The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

\*\*Sodium is a secondary standard and has a recommended level of 200 ppm for individuals on regular diets and 20 ppm for individuals on sodium restricted diets. Those individuals on sodium-restricted diets should calculate their water consumption with the rest of their dietary sodium intake and consult with their physician to determine if there is a health concern.

**All other contaminants were ND in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.**

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.

While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

If present, elevated lead levels 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. Town of Felton is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

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. In order to insure tap water is

safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminant; and radioactive contaminants.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Please call our office if you have questions.

