

*Johnathan Gibson, Mayor &  
Town Manager  
Benjamin Gibson, Vice-Mayor*

*Amy Flick, Council Member  
Vacant, Council Member  
Arthur Scott, Council Member*

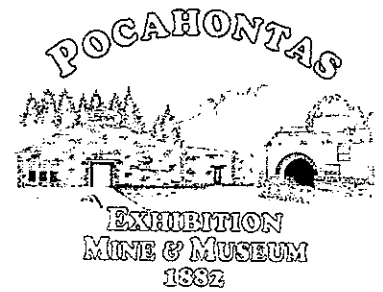
## **Town of Pocahontas**

**June 30th, 1882**

300 Centre Street  
P.O. Box 128  
Pocahontas, Va., 24635

276-945-9522 Town Hall  
276-945-5959 Police Department  
276-945-9904 Fax Line

*PocahontasVa@Comcast.net  
PocahontasVa.org*



*National Historic Landmark  
Virginia's Official Coal Heritage  
Zone*

*Open April - September  
276-945-2134*

## **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report: July 1, 2011 Virginia PWS ID: 1185625 West Virginia PWS ID: WV3302852**

To: All Water Customers of the Pocahontas Water System

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2010 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for our Virginia customers and the Bureau for Public Health, Office of Environmental Health Services for our West Virginia customers.

On behalf of the Pocahontas Town Council and staff, I'm pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal, Virginia and West Virginia State requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Bobby Cole, Chief Water Plant Operator at (304) 248-8156 or Johnathan Gibson, Mayor at (276) 945-9522. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Council meetings held at the Pocahontas Town Hall on 300 Centre Street, Pocahontas, VA on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Pocahontas residence is strongly urged to attend.

Please visit our Town Web page: ([PocahontasVa.org](http://PocahontasVa.org)) for additional information.

### **WATER SOURCE**

The water source is surface water from Big Spring Branch also known as Abbs Creek or Abbs Valley Creek. The water is treated by means of coagulation, clarification, filtration and disinfection.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system during 2002. The source was determined to be of high susceptibility using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, and inventory of known land use activities or concern, and documentation of any known contamination with the last 5 years. The report is available by contacting your water system representative at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

Source Name	Susceptibility to Contamination	Explanation
Abbs Valley Creek	High	Surface water exposed to inconsistent array of contaminants at varying concentrations due to changing hydrologic, hydraulic and atmospheric conditions with land use activities or concern in the zone 1 assessment area.

### CONTAMINANTS IN WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include river, 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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while ground water may or may not have any treatment.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring, or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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, **1-800-426-4791**.

The Pocahontas Water System monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal, Virginia and West Virginia State laws. The following tables show results of our monitoring for the period of January 2010 through December 2010. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. Some contaminants on the enclosed tables are not from the previous year, but are completed in accordance with Virginia and West Virginia State Regulations. More information about contaminants and potential

health effect can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline **1-800-426-4791**.

### **WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE** **Definitions of terms used in table**

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to federal, Virginia and West Virginia State regulations. The Table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

**Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or MCLG** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL** - Maximum residual detection level

**MRDLG** - Maximum residual detection level goal

**Non-detects (ND)** - Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant 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 two thousand years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - A measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

#### **Lead Contaminants**

If present, elevated levels of 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 Town of Pocahontas 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 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature 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 of at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**WATER QUALITY RESULTS  
Regulated Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Type Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological</b>						
Turbidity	N	< 0.1 100% of Mo. Samples <0.07	NTU	N/A	TT met if ≤ 0.3 in 95% of samples	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon Combined Filter	N	1.37	N/A	N/A	TT met if ≥ 1.0	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radiological*</b>						
Gross Alpha Emitters	N	0.3	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Emitters	N	0.7	pCi/L	0	50	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	0.8	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	60.7 Annual Average Range 4.1-104	ppb	N/A	RAA > 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Arsenic	N	2	ppm	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	1.66 Annual Average Range .6-2.8	ppm	4 MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	47.8 Annual Average Range 3.7-105	ppb	N/A	RAA > 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic</b>						
Copper**	N	0.29	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead**	N	4.75	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	N	1.20	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

### Inorganic

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Type Source of Contamination
Barium	N	.023	Ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Type Source of Contamination
Aluminum	N	50	Ppb	NE	200	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bromide	N	.14	Ppm	NE	NE	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium	N	4.41	Ppm	NE	20	Erosion of Natural Deposits

**\* Radiological constituents are tested every six years. They were tested on March 24, 2009.**

**\*\* Copper and Lead samples are collected every three years. They were collected from 10 homes in our community water system on August 30, 2010. Only the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is reported. One of the samples collected exceeded the action level.**

MCL's are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In developing the standards, EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCL's at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effects for other contaminants.

### Violations

#### Virginia

No Violations

#### West Virginia

1. Violation Number: 2010 5028941: Turbidity reading not recorded on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
2. Violation Number: 2010 5028939: Chlorine residual results omitted from bacteriological report for 06/01/2010 – 06/30/2010 monitoring period.
3. Violation Number: 2010 5028940: Chlorine residual results omitted from bacteriological report for 06/01/2010 – 06/30/2010 monitoring period.

### Questions and Answers

*Which household activity wastes the most water?*

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4-6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

### *What type of container is best for storing water?*

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

### *How much emergency water should I keep?*

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

### *How do I dispose of my medication?*

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. Over the past five years, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations.

### *How do I know if I have a leak?*

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount of your water bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained such as extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc, there is a possibility that you may have a leak in your toilet, hot water heater blow off, water softener, sprinkler system, or you may have a dripping faucet.

We encourage our customers to check for leaks before scheduling an appointment with the Town Hall to save themselves both water and money—it's free for you to check but not for the Town.

A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. A total of 18,000 gallons per quarter or 72,000 gallons per year. Most high water bills are caused by leaks in toilets. You can see and hear some leaks, but many are silent and hard to find. A bad flapper valve, flapper valve seat, a bad ballcock valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube can cause them.

## **Information on the Internet**

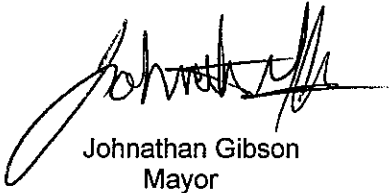
For information about the Town of Pocahontas, please visit our Web site ([PocahontasVa.org](http://PocahontasVa.org)). The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhme](http://www.epa.gov/watrhme)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water has a Web site (<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/drinkingwater>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.

## **Other Information**

On behalf of the Town of Pocahontas, we appreciate the opportunity to serve our customers year round with safe and dependable water. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, please contact Johnathan Gibson, Mayor (276) 945-9522 or Bobby Cole, Chief Operator (304) 248-8156.

Sincerely,



Johnathan Gibson  
Mayor



Bobby Cole  
Chief Water Plant Operator

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR**

**POCAHONTAS WATER SYSTEM, WV3302852**

Our water system violated State drinking water requirements. Even though these were not emergencies, you, as our customers, have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

*We are required to comply with State drinking requirements on a regular basis. During 6/1/2010 to 6/30/2010, we did not submit a monthly operational report or we did not submit sufficient chlorine residual readings.*

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the violation and the compliance period when the violation occurred.

Violation	Compliance Period
CHLORINE WB Chlorine residual omitted from bacteriological report	6/1/2010 to 6/30/2010

**What happened? What is being done? (Describe corrective action)**

LEFT OFF BAC. REPORT BUT NOTED on MONTHLY  
REPORT

For more information, please contact Bobby Cole at 304-2488156  
or P.O. Box 128 Pocahontas VA 24635  
(Contact Name) (Phone Number)  
(Mailing Address)

*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.*

This notice is being sent to you by Pocahontas Water System

State Water System ID# WV3302852

Date Distributed 7-1-11

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR**

**POCAHONTAS WATER SYSTEM, WV3302852**

We are required to monitor your drinking water on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 6/1/2010 to 6/30/2010, we failed to submit the required number of samples and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the required monitoring, required reporting frequency and the compliance period.

Required Monitoring	Required Reporting Frequency	Compliance Period
36, MONITORING, RTN/RPT MAJOR (SWTR-FILTER) CHLORINE Chlorine residual omitted from bacteriological report	Monthly	6/1/2010 to 6/30/2010

**What happened? What is being done?** (Describe corrective action)

1. RT over RLS. Report put on Daily Log

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For more information, please contact Bobby Cole at 304-248-8156  
(Contact name) (Phone number)  
 Or P.O. Box 128 Pocahontas VA 24635  
(Mailing address)

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This notice is being sent to you by: **POCAHONTAS WATER SYSTEM**

State Water System ID #: **WV3302852**

Date Distributed: 7-01-11

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR**

**POCAHONTAS WATER SYSTEM, WV3302852**

Our water system violated drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 7/1/2010 to 7/31/2010, we failed to submit sufficient turbidity information and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the required monitoring, required reporting frequency and the compliance period.

Required Monitoring	Required Reporting Frequency	Compliance Period
38, MONITORING, ROUTINE (IESWTR/LT1), MINOR TURBIDITY	Monthly	7/1/2010 to 7/31/2010

**What happened? What is being done?** (Describe corrective action)

TURBIDITY BELL CUR CLARIFIER, WORK ON WALL  
TILL DAVE T HOMER CAME TOOK TURBIDITY SAMPLE  
BY HAND.

For more information, please contact Bobby Cole at 304-248-8156  
(Contact name) (Phone number)  
or P.O. Box 128 Pocahontas VA 24631  
(Mailing address)

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.

This notice is being sent to you by: POCAHONTAS WATER SYSTEM

State Water System ID #: **WV3302852**

Date Distributed: 7-1-11