Public Participation Opportunities
The Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is part of the City of Virginia Beach municipal government. The City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month except in July and December, when the meetings occur on the first and second Tuesdays. Meetings are held on the second floor of City Hall at the Municipal Center and are open to the public. Agendas for upcoming meetings may be requested from the City Clerk’s office at (757) 385-4171.

Water Quality: Contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 (www.epa.gov/safewater).

Local Drinking Water Quality: Contact Susan Sadowski of the Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities Laboratory at (757) 385-4400 (ssadowski@vbgov.com), or the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water at (757) 683-2000 (www.vdh.state.va.us/drinkwater).

Water Treatment/Source Water Assessment: Contact Jim Van de Riet at (757) 385-4171 (jvanderi@vbgov.com).

Water Conservation: Contact Tiffany Wright at (757) 385-4171 (twright@vbgov.com).

This Report: Contact Tiffany Wright at (757) 385-4171 (twright@vbgov.com).

Your Water Account: Contact the Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities at (757) 385-4622 or toll-free at 1-866-697-3481 or visit www.vbgov.com.

Contact Stephen Motley at (757) 385-4171 (smotley@vbgov.com).

TTY: 711

Web site: www.VBgov.com/dpu

Tagalog
Ang pahayaan na ito ay naglalaman nang importanteng impormasyon na nauukol sa tubig na iniinom ninyo. Ang mga pahayag na ito ay naglalaman ng impormasyon na nauukol sa iba pang nilalaman ng pahayag na ito.

Spanish
Este reporte contiene información muy importante acerca del agua potable que usted consume. Si usted tiene una pregunta acerca de este reporte, por favor contacte a nuestro Departamento de Servicios Públicos al (757) 385-4171.

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2011 Annual Water Quality Report for 2010 Data

Clearly Defined
Virginia Beach Annual Water Quality Report
Virginia Beach Public Utilities is committed to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to your tap all day, every day. We are pleased to present you with this annual water quality report which contains information about your water and summarizes test results for the year ending December 31, 2010. In this report, learn where your water comes from, how it is treated and tested, and how Virginia Beach water compares to federal and state standards.

Where Does My Water Come From?
The mission of the Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is to provide a safe and sufficient water supply that will enhance and sustain our vibrant community. The Lake Gaston Water Supply Project helps fulfill that mission by providing water to Virginia Beach citizens through a 76-mile-long pipeline leading from Lake Gaston in Brunswick County to Lake Prince, a reservoir located in Suffolk but owned and operated by Norfolk. Lake Gaston provides an average of 36 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to Virginia Beach citizens, and it will eventually furnish up to 45 MGD, supplying enough water to sustain our growing city for many years.

Water from Lake Gaston is blended with Norfolk’s primary water supply comes from Lake Prince and Western Branch Reservoir in Suffolk, and Lake Burnt Mills in Isle of Wight. During extended dry periods, these lakes may be supplemented with water from four deep wells located around the lakes, or with water from the Blackwater and Nottoway rivers. Lakes within Norfolk and Virginia Beach also supplement Norfolk’s water supply. These include Lake Wright, Lake Whitehurst, Little Creek Reservoir, Lake Smith, Lake Lawson, and Stumpy Lake.

From the reservoirs, water is pumped to the treatment plant, where it undergoes an extensive filtering and disinfection process to remove any particles, bacteria, algae, and other impurities. The Moses Bridges Water Treatment Plant provides state of the art treatment technology and ensures water quality through continual monitoring and testing.

Hot Topic: Uranium Mining
In response to higher prices for uranium, Virginia Uranium Inc. is seeking to have the General Assembly lift a 50-year state ban on uranium mining so that it can develop a uranium mining operation in Pittsylvania County. Virginia—upstream of Virginia Beach’s Lake Gaston water intake. Uranium mining generates massive quantities of radioactive tailings which are stored in sophisticated landfills known as confinement cells. Should uranium mining be allowed, a catastrophic storm—however unlikely—could cause these radioactive tailings to flow into downstream drinking water supplies, including Lake Gaston.

Last year, Virginia Beach commissioned a study to assess the potential water quality impacts in the unlikely event of a catastrophic storm. The study found that should Virginia Beach’s water supply be compromised due to a major tailings release, the impact would be significant but not permanent. As explained herein, the Lake Gaston water supply is integrated into Norfolk’s raw water supplies. So if contamination were to occur, the city would turn off the pumps to the water source at Lake Gaston and rely upon Norfolk’s supplies while the problem was being investigated. Under no circumstances would Norfolk or Virginia Beach ever provide water to our customers that violated the water quality limits in the Safe Drinking Water Act. For more information regarding the study and complete study findings, visit www.VBgov.com/dpu.
ORGANIC CHEMICALS CONTAMINANTS, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The water treatment process removes these impurities and ensures the water is safe to drink.

Is the Water Safe for Everyone to Drink? Virginia Beach water meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established similar regulations for bottled water.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contamination of drinking water. Immunocompromised persons, such as people undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some pregnant women, and infants, may be particularly at risk for these infections. People, or those caring for them, should seek advice from their health care providers about their drinking water.

The EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on reducing the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4796) or the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

A message about lead in drinking water: 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. Virginia Beach Public Utilities is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but individual homes may have lead service lines or components associated with their home plumbing. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds 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 (1-800-426-4796) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What are the contaminants found in drinking water? The contaminants can be divided into the following categories:

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS

Person-to-person or animal-to-human transmission of disease

Possible contaminants in untreated water:

- Bacteria (Escherichia coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Yersinia, and Cryptosporidium)
- Viruses (rotavirus, adenovirus, echovirus, and poliovirus)
- Protozoa (Giardia and Cryptosporidium)

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs, streams, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring organic and inorganic substances. Water also picks up contaminants from animals and human activity. Furthermore, fertilizers, pesticides, consumer products, metals, and salts wash off streets and lawns and enter the water supply. Neighboring communities, farms, and industries all contribute to these impurities. Left untreated, this water could make you sick.

Disinfection is an essential part of the water treatment process, preventing the occurrence and spread of many water-borne diseases. Norfolk's Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant treats our source water for about 250 gallons. Further testing is performed daily throughout Virginia Beach's water distribution system. On average, over 900 water quality samples are collected and analyzed monthly, providing continual monitoring for the highest water quality possible.

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