



# Serving Those Who Serve.®

2021 Water Quality Report - Joint Base Andrews  
Terrapin Utility Services, Inc.  
ASUS – Joint Base Andrews  
PWSID#: N/A



# Dedicated to Delivering Clean Water

Every day, people depend on American States Utility Services, Inc. (ASUS) for the water that enhances their quality of life. We operate and maintain water and wastewater systems on military bases across the country, dedicating ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards and continually striving to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to the military installations we serve. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to meet the needs of all of our water users.

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is the supplier of your drinking water. Joint Base Andrews is a contingent sub-sect of their system, so the installation receives its drinking water and water quality reporting data directly from WSSC. This report includes a compilation of WSSC's reported sampling data in an effort to supply our customers with the knowledge of the health of their drinking water system.

Terrapin Utility Services, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASUS. We at ASUS are proud to be able to provide our services to the military personnel, civilians, and family members who live and work at Joint Base Andrews. We're honored to support the role your military installation plays in defending the country, both at home and abroad. We achieve this goal by always putting our fundamental ideals into practice. We pay special attention to the ultimate measure of success: our customer's peace of mind.

In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. With our own team's deeply-rooted military background, we have an intimate understanding of what it takes to make an installation thrive, and we take pride in delivering unparalleled care in this regard.

We are pleased to present you with this annual water quality report and thank you for allowing us to serve you and your family. Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. For more details, you can view our past and current Water Quality Reports at [www.asusinc.com](http://www.asusinc.com).

Sincerely,

Greg Booker  
Utility Manager



Susan Miller  
Vice President of Operations



# Important Information about Your Water

## Your Drinking Water Source

In 2002 and 2004, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) conducted source water assessments in cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), evaluating the vulnerability of our two drinking water sources (Potomac and Patuxent) to contamination. The reports are available for public review at the main branches of the Montgomery and Prince George's County libraries, or by contacting MDE at 410-537-3714.

Source water from rivers and reservoirs generally picks up contaminants before it reaches water treatment plants. As water travels over the land surface or through the ground on its way to the water body, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and vegetation/organic matter. It also can pick up pesticides, herbicides and other synthetic/volatile organic chemicals from agricultural land, golf courses, or residential and urban lands. Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activities. Sewage treatment plants and septic systems, as well as animal waste from pets, agricultural livestock and wildlife, may be sources of microbial contaminants. The salts and byproducts from winter road treatments may also be present in source water.

Potential sources of contamination in the Potomac River watershed include runoff from urban and agricultural land uses, and potential spills from highways and petroleum pipelines. Contaminants of particular concern include natural organic matter and disinfection byproduct (DBP) precursors, pathogenic microorganisms (Cryptosporidium, Giardia, fecal coliform), taste and odor-causing compounds, ammonia, manganese, sodium and chloride from winter salt application, sediment/turbidity and algae.

Potential sources of contamination in the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed include transportation, agriculture, onsite septic systems, developed areas, and minor permitted discharges. Phosphorus runoff from urban/suburban and agricultural land uses is the primary contaminant of concern for this watershed. Sediment/turbidity, DBP precursors, iron, manganese, sodium and chloride from winter salt application, and pathogenic microorganisms are also concerns.

WSSC works with local agencies to protect the Potomac and Patuxent drinking water supplies, playing key roles in the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership and the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Protection Group. Partnering with customers and neighbors is crucial to our efforts. If you are interested in learning more about how you can protect your drinking water supplies, please contact us at 301-206-8100.

## What the EPA Wants You to Know

Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants, but that doesn't necessarily mean the water poses a health risk. 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 for infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).

## *Informational EPA Statement on Lead*

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. WSSC 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 two 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 (800-426-4791) or at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

# Important Information about Your Water

## *Informational EPA Statement on Lead (cont'd)*

WSSC completed its latest triennial Lead and Copper Rule tap sampling in 2017. Ninety percent of the homes we tested had lead levels less than 1.05 ppb, barely above the analytical reporting limit of 1 ppb and well below the 15 ppb level which the EPA considers unacceptable. Information about WSSC lead prevention methods can be found at [wsscwater.com/lead](http://wsscwater.com/lead).

The Patuxent and Potomac rivers are the sources of all the water we filter and process. The Patuxent Plant produces approximately 40 million gallons per day (MGD) and the Potomac Plant produces 123 MGD. The map shows the approximate service areas of both plants.

## Water is Treated to EPA Standards

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. As stewards entrusted to provide safe drinking water to our customers, WSSC produces water to meet or exceed EPA standards.

WSSC drinking water undergoes extensive purification and treatment after it arrives at the plant and before it is sent to the distribution system for delivery to half a million homes and businesses.

Our water filtration process includes: coagulation and flocculation (to make small particles and microorganisms in the raw source water adhere to each other); sedimentation (to remove most of those particles and microorganisms); filtration (to remove nearly all the remaining particles and microorganisms); UV treatment (as a precautionary barrier for pathogens); chlorination (for disinfection); lime addition (to minimize the potential for dissolving lead solder used in older homes); and fluoridation (to prevent tooth decay). Orthophosphate is also added to help minimize lead corrosion and copper pipe pinhole leaks in home plumbing.

## *Cryptosporidium* Health Effects & Treatment

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States.

*Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised adults, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

WSSC concluded monitoring of *Cryptosporidium* for a two-year period (March 2015 through February 2017) as required by the EPA. The results indicate that our Potomac and Patuxent sources are not affected by *Cryptosporidium*.

While our existing treatment processes meet EPA requirements for addressing concerns about *Cryptosporidium*, as an extra precaution, we have installed UV disinfection at both the Potomac and Patuxent plants to provide an extra barrier of protection against *Cryptosporidium*.

# Important Information about Your Water

## Notice of Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

As part of the EPA's fourth Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program, WSSC collected and analyzed four sets of quarterly drinking water samples starting in March 2018.

In addition to these quarterly samples, WSSC collected bi-monthly cyanotoxin samples between July 2018 and October 2018. HAA5, HAA6br, and HAA9 make up a group of contaminants known as disinfection byproducts and are only tested in the distribution system. All remaining contaminants, such as manganese and cyanotoxins, are only monitored from the treated drinking water produced at each water filtration plant. Only four of the 30 tested contaminants were detected in 2018 and all detections were at low levels (parts per billion range). The detected contaminants are listed in this report.

The EPA has not established maximum contaminant levels for these unregulated contaminants, and the human health effects of these contaminants at the levels they were found is unclear. If you are interested in learning more about the results, please contact us at 301-206-7575 or visit [wsscwater.com/ucmr4](http://wsscwater.com/ucmr4). More information on UCMR4 is also available on the EPA's website: [epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule](http://epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule).

## 2021 Water Quality Test Results

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) provides the finished drinking water to Joint Base Andrews and routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021. Data obtained before January 1, 2021, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

### Detected Regulated Contaminants

#### Metals

Substance (Units)	Patuxent Tap		Potomac Tap		MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range				
Barium (mg/l)	0.03	0.02-0.03	0.04	0.03-0.04	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes & metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

#### Inorganic Contaminants

Substance (Units)	Patuxent Tap		Potomac Tap		MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range				
Fluoride (mg/l)	0.7	0.5-0.7	0.9	0.6-0.9	4	4	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (mg/l)	1.6	0.5-1.6	2.1	0.5-2.1	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

\* Based on yearly average except as noted.

# 2021 Water Quality Test Results (cont'd)

## Microbial Contaminants

Substance (Units)	Patuxent Tap		Potomac Tap		MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range				
Turbidity (NTU)	0.05	0.05-0.16 (1)	0.05	0.02-0.16 (1)	TT=1 NTU	N/A	NO	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% <0.3 NTU)	100%	N/A	100%	N/A	TT=95% min.	N/A	NO	Soil runoff
Residual chlorine (mg/l)	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	TT>=0.2	N/A	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Viruses (n/a)	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	TT=99.9% removal	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste
Giardia lamblia (n/a)	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	TT=99.9% removal	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste
Cryptosporidium (n/a)	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	TT=99% removal	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste

## Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) Precursor

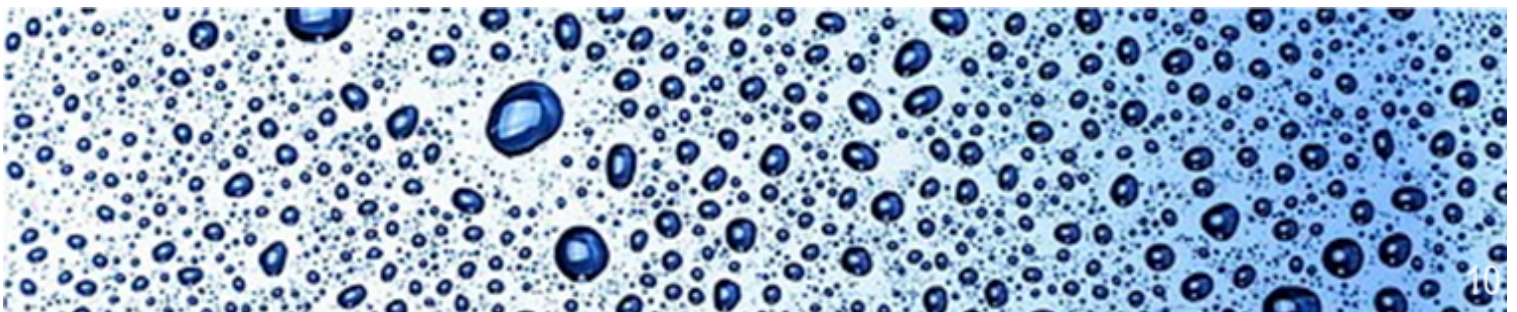
Substance (Units)	Patuxent Tap		Potomac Tap		MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range				
Total Organic Carbon (n/a)	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	Met TT Requirements	TT	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment

## Radioactive Contaminants

Substance (Units)	Patuxent Tap		Potomac Tap		MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range				
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	7.8	n/d-7.8	7.3	n/d-7.3	50 (2)	0	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

\* Based on yearly average except as noted.

1. Filtered water, maximum of measurements taken every 15 minutes.
2. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.



# 2021 Water Quality Test Results (cont'd)

## Metals

### Customer Tap (4)

Substance (Units)	90th Percentile (5)	# of Sites Above AL	AL	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
Copper (mg/l)	0.12	0 of 55 sites	1.3	1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ug/l)	<1.0	0 of 55 sites	15	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

## Bacteriological Contaminants

### Distribution System

Substance (Units)	Level Found*	Range	MCL or TT or MRD	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation?	Major Source
Total Coliform (% positive per month)	0.02	0-0.27	TT	0	NO	Naturally present in the environment
No. of E. Coli positive samples (count)	0	0-0	0 (11)	0	NO	Human and animal fecal wastes

## Disinfectant & DBPs

### Distribution System

Substance (Units)	Level Found*	Range	MCL or TT or MRD	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation?	Major Source
Residual Chlorine (mg/l)	1.2 (5)	0.09-3.4(6)	4.0 (7)	4.0 (7)	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ug/l)	45 (8)	14-75	60 (9)	N/A	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ug/l)	66 (8)	15-113	80 (9)	N/A	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

## Detected Unregulated Contaminants

### Metals

#### Patuxent Tap

#### Potomac Tap

Substance (Units)	Level Found*	Range	Level Found*	Range	MCL (or TT)	MCLG	Violation?	Major Source
Manganese (ug/L) (11)	0.6	n/d-1.2	8	2.1-33	N/A	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (mg/l)	18	14-30	22	27-64	N/A	N/A	N/A	

### DBPs

#### Distribution System

Substance (Units)	Level Found*	Range	MCL or TT or MRD	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation?	Major Source
HAA5 (ug/l) (11)	38	15-88	N/A	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA6Br (ug/l) (11)	12	4-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA9 (ug/l) (11)	49	23-98	N/A	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

# 2021 Water Quality Test Results (cont'd)

\* Based on yearly average except as noted.

3 - Most recent required sampling, between June and September 2020

4 - If more than 10% of sites exceed action level, system is required to take additional steps to control corrosiveness of their water

5 - Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL), the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water; based on a running annual average (RAA)

6 - Highest RAA

7 - All samples deemed to have detectable disinfectant residual

8 - Maximum contaminant level based on locational running annual average (LRAA)

9 - Highest LRAA

10 - Unregulated contaminants were monitored in accordance to State of Maryland legislation requiring WSSC Water to continue the latest cycle of UCMR. Federally required UCMR4 monitoring ended in 2018. For full results please visit <https://www.wsscwater.com/ucmr4>

11 - Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either E. coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli

## DEFINITIONS

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.

**MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. 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 and are non-enforceable public health goals.

**TT** - Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**AL** - Action level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. 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. **MRDLG** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. 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 contamination.

**Turbidity** - A measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our treatment process.

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

**mg/L** – Milligrams per liter, equal to parts per million (ppm). The equivalent of one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.

**ug/L** - Micrograms per liter, equal to parts per billion (ppb). The equivalent of one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10 million.

**ng/L** – Nanograms per liter, equal to parts per trillion (ppt). The equivalent of one minute in two million years or one penny in \$10 billion.

**pCi/L** - Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**n/d** - Not detected.

**n/a** - Not applicable.





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