

A close-up photograph of water being poured from a glass pitcher into a clear glass. The water is in motion, creating ripples and bubbles. The background is a wooden surface.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018

Presented By

TOWN OF



Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. 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 serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 635 East Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/ CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Town of Pittsboro's raw water is taken from Haw River and treated at Pittsboro's water treatment plant. The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from the source and delivered to the water treatment plant. The raw water is mixed rapidly with poly aluminum chloride and ferric sulfate. The addition of these substances causes small particles called "floc" to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin, from which the sediment is removed. At this point the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller, suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges.

Chloramines are then added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) A caustic solution is used to adjust the final pH and alkalinity. Fluoride (used to prevent tooth decay) and orthophosphate (a corrosion inhibitor used to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to the distribution system, underground reservoirs, and water towers, and into your home or business.

Wastewater Report History

The Pittsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was originally constructed in 1977 and upgraded in 1988 and 2010. Starting in 2010, the plant began pumping a portion of its effluent water as reclaimed water to the 3M plant in Chatham County. The WWTP has a designed capacity to treat 750,000 gallons per day.

Treatment Process

The raw wastewater enters the WWTP at the influent channel and is screened with a mechanical bar screen. The wastewater flows by gravity to the influent wet well that supplies water to the influent pumps for delivery to the plant and equalization pumps for delivery to the equalization storage basins. The wastewater then enters the treatment train via a splitter box that provides equal flow to two parallel biological and clarification units. The clarified water from both units is chemically treated for phosphorus removal and flows by gravity to a Parkson DynaSand filtration unit, followed by ultraviolet disinfection. The treated effluent water is either pumped to the 3M manufacturing facility as reclaimed water or receives post-treatment cascade aeration before being discharged to Robeson Creek.

Biosolids Disposal

Biological solids are removed from the plant daily. These solids are treated with polymer and thickened in a rotary drum thickener. The thickened solids are then stored in two aerobic digesters until applied to land by a contracted residuals management company.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

Testing For Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100-percent removal. Monitoring of source water and/or finished water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines (ppm)	2018	[4]	[4]	3.1	2.0–4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	2018	[4]	[4]	3.0	2.0–4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.60	0.30–1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2018	60	NA	13	10–60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2018	80	NA	41	10–80	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] ¹ (removal ratio)	2018	TT	NA	1.4	1.0–3.0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2018	TT = 1 NTU	NA	0.25	0.02–0.25	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2018	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.170	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	0.0512	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Color (ppm)	2018	15	NA	3	1–15	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2018	300	NA	20	10–50	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2018	50	NA	10	1–50	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2018	6.5–8.5	NA	7.5	7.2–8.0	No	Naturally occurring

¹ Depending on the TOC in our source water, the system MUST have a certain percentage removal of TOC or achieve alternative compliance criteria. If we do not achieve that percentage removal, there is an alternative percentage removal. If we fail to meet the alternative percentage removal, we are in violation of a treatment technique.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95 percent or more of the monthly samples be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

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.

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 contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Source Water Assessment

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information, and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate, or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area. The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)		
SOURCE NAME	SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	SWAP REPORT DATE
Well #1	Lower	May 2017

The complete SWAP Assessment report may be viewed at <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600>. Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this website may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634 or email requests to swap@ncdenr.gov. Please indicate your system name and number and provide your name, mailing address, and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report, please call the Source Water Assessment staff at (919) 707-9098.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Poteat, Public Works and Utilities Director, at (919) 542-2530 or Adam Pickett, Pittsboro Water Plant Superintendent, at (919) 542-3530.

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

