ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

Presented By
Town of Pittsboro

PWS ID#: 0319015

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, 2022. 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. The town's public meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Source Water Description

Our source is surface water extracted from the Haw River.

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 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 at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Cory Saulsbury, Pittsboro Water Plant Superintendent, at (919) 542-3530.

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;

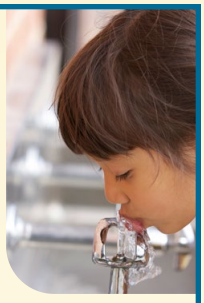
Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

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.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?



The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

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.

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.

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.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Alachlor (ppb)	2022	2	0	ND	0.2–2	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Arsenic (ppb)	2022	10	0	ND	5–10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Atrazine (ppb)	2022	3	3	ND	1–3	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	ND	0.400–2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Benzene (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Cadmium (ppb)	2022	5	5	ND	1–5	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Carbofuran (ppb)	2022	40	40	ND	0.9–40	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chloramines (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	3.3	2.0–4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	4.0	2.0–4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	2022	100	100	ND	0.5–100	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Chromium (ppb)	2022	100	100	ND	20–100	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2022	70	70	ND	0.5–70	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Cyanide (ppb)	2022	200	200	ND	50–200	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Dalapon (ppb)	2022	200	200	ND	1–200	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Dichloromethane (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Dinoseb (ppb)	2022	7	7	ND	0.2–7	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
E. coli (# positive samples)	2022	TT	0	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	2022	700	700	ND	0.5–700	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.48	0.30–1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	8	10–60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Heptachlor (ppt)	2022	400	0	ND	40–400	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	2022	50	50	ND	0.1–50	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	2022	40	40	ND	0.1–40	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	ND	1–10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2022	1	1	ND	0.10–1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	2022	200	200	ND	1.0–200	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes, and tomatoes
Picloram (ppb)	2022	500	500	ND	0.1–500	No	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	2022	4	4	ND	0.047–4	No	Herbicide runoff
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	2022	1	1	ND	0.0005–1.0	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2022	TT	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2022	TT[1]	NA	1.69	1.0–3.0	No	Naturally present in the environment
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2022	100	100	ND	0.5–100	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2022	5	0	ND	0.5–5	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	80[2]	NA	43	10–80	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[3] (NTU)	2022	TT = 1 NTU	NA	NA	0.02–NA	No	Soil runoff
Xylenes (ppm)	2022	10	10	ND	0.0005–10	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Color (units)	2022	15	NA	3	1–15	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	2.0	NA	0.48	0.30–0.80	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Iron (ppb)	2022	300	NA	ND	0.10–0.50	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2022	50	NA	ND	0.1–0.50	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2022	6.5-8.5	NA	7.2	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] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[3] 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% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU.