Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Pickens
System ID Number *3910001*

Calendar Year *2015*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is a surface water plant located on Twelve Mile Creek.

Our Source Water Assessment Plan is available for your review at www.scdhec.gov/html/srcewtr.html. If you do not have internet access please contact Bobby Abercrombie at 864-898-8146.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month at 6 PM. If you wish to discuss the water quality, please call City Hall before the day of the council meeting between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM to get the agenda.

City of Pickens routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent 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 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – (mandatory language) 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – (mandatory language) 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.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2)

The City of Pickens Water Treatment Plant was monitored for consecutive quarters beginning in June, 2009 for 10 parameters (listed below) required under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2). **NONE WERE DETECTED:** Dimethoate; 2, 2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromobiphenyl; 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromodiphenyl ether; 2,2',4,4',5-Pentabromodiphenyl ether; 2,2',4,4',6-Pentabromodiphenyl ether; Terbufos-sulfone; 2,2',4,4'-Tetrabromodiphenyl ether; 1,3-Dinitrobenzene; RDX (Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine); TNT (2,4,6-Trinitrotoluene).

Test Results - 2015

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
15. Copper	N	0.13 (2013 Results)	mg/L	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
18. Lead	N	0 (2013 Results)	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
17. Fluoride	N	0.8	mg/L	4	4	Drinking water additive which prevents tooth decay
20. Nitrate (as nitrogen)	N	0.095	mg/L	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; fertilizer runoff
Disinfectants						
2002-4. Chlorine	N	0.88	mg/L	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Water additive to control microbes
Organic Compounds						
2002-7. Haloacetic Acids - HAA's	N	46	ppb	No goal for the total	60	By-product of drinking water disinfectant
74. Total Trihalomethanes	N	64	ppb	No goal for the total	80	By-product of drinking water disinfectant
2002 - Total Organic Carbon	N	49 % Removal	TT	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation	Limit (Treatment	Level Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
3. Turbidity				
Highest single measurement	N	1 NTU	0.1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	N	0.8 NTU	100%	Soil Runoff

What does this mean?

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Infants and children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminates in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 should seek advice 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 (800-426-4791).