

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

## City of Pickens

System ID Number 3910001

2020

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/srcwtr.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/html/srcwtr.html). If you do not have internet access, please contact Harley Deal 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. 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

### Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2019	1.3	1.3	0.138	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2019	0	15	2.0	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits

### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2020	0.97	0.61-0.97	MRDLG= 4	MRDL= 4	ppm	N	Water additives used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2020	LRAA 39.0	25.8-45.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	LRAA 60.0	34.0-84.0	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2020	0.66	0.66-0.66	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2020	0.1	0.1-0.1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants	Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2019	4.2	4.2-4.2	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminant								
Sodium	2020	14	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Occurs naturally.	

### Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measure	1 NTU	0.180	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100.000%	N	Soil runoff

If present, elevated lead levels 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. The City of Pickens Water System 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 seek advice about drinking water 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 1-800-426-4791.  
Please call our office if you have questions.