

# **CITY OF BROOKHAVEN WATER DEPARTMENT ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT PWS ID# 430002 July1, 2015 Corrected CCR**

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Our water source is the city of Brookhaven Water Department, which has 9 wells: Our wells draw from the Miocehe series, citronella formation.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

Our source water assessment has been completed. One well was ranked high, seven wells moderate, and one well low in terms of susceptibility to contamination. Please contact our office at 601-833-7721 if you have any questions.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **How can I get involved?**

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Board meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Government Complex.

## **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Significant Deficiencies**

During a sanitary survey conducted on 8/3/2010, the Mississippi State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Inadequate internal cleaning/maintenance of storage tanks.

Corrective Actions: This system has entered into a Bilateral Compliance Agreement with MSDH to correct this deficiency by January 2015. This has been completed.

## **Total Coliform**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. The violation occurred in June 2014. It was resolved in one week.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took 15 samples for coliform bacteria during August 2014. Two (2) of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month of our samples may do so.

Corrective Actions: The water department has resampled and retested in these areas. All resamples have come back negative for coliform bacteria. The water department has increased flushing in these areas to assure levels of chlorine are affected.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific constituents on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During December 2014, we did not monitor or test for bacteriological contaminants nor chlorine and therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. The number of samples required was 2, number of samples taken was 0.

## **Additional Information for Fluoride**

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", the Brookhaven Water Department is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year that average fluoride samples results were within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 92%.

### Additional Information for 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. BROOKHAVEN WATER DEPARTMENT 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 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>

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## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	22.21	3.24	22.21	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	10.15	6	10.15	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1	0.68	1.97	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.07	0.08	1.07	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.02	0.02	0.02	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.753	0.753	0.753	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)		0.2	0.2(MP L)	0.0662	0.2	2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1.1	1.1	1.1	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.603	0.5	0.5	2014	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2014	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>Your Water</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b># Samples Exceeding AL</b>	<b>Exceeds AL</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.003	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.3	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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