

**CITY OF BROOKHAVEN ♦ WATER DEPARTMENT**  
**2016 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**PWS ID# 0430002**



**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. People with severely compromised immune systems 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 Miocene 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 first and third Tuesday of each month at the **Lincoln County / Brookhaven Government Complex** located at 301 First Street, Brookhaven.

## **Description of the water treatment process**

Your water is ground water pumped from wells with depths ranging from 160 feet to 1200 feet with an average depth of about 500 feet. The raw water is very soft, and can be aggressive to plumbing if not treated to correct this problem.

The initial stage of the treatment process for 6 of the wells is pH adjustment. pH (potential of hydrogen) is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of an aqueous solution. The ground water in these 6 wells have a low pH. The pH is raised by the addition of a food grade hydrated lime to minimize corrosion. All 9 of the wells are then disinfected by the use of chlorine to kill (disinfect) dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Water leaving this type of disinfection process will retain a small chlorine residual. Our staff is able to monitor the chlorine residual in the system to insure it remains a safe product from treatment site to the customers tap. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances allowing public water supplies to exist in the past century.

The final treatment stage is that of fluoridation. Fluoridation is accomplished by the addition of a controlled amount of fluoride to promote dental health. Brookhaven has fluoridated the water supply for over 50 years. This in line with national policy as approximately 75% of the US population is served by fluoridated water supplies. Because of its contribution to the large decline in cavities in the United States since the 1960s, The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) named community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

In addition to the treatment processes described above, the city must meet a rigorous monitoring schedule to insure the water meets Federal and State standards. This includes routine microbiological testing (monthly) and other routine monitoring (quarterly, semi-annual and annual) for radiological and chemical contaminants.

## **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.

### **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 5 The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was with the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 37%. The City of Brookhaven is currently awaiting upgrade of all four fluoridation systems. The State has awarded the City a 100% grant to upgrade the fluoridation systems. The grant has been approved and the upgrades will begin in late 2017. The existing equipment will be converted from using a dry sodium fluoride to a liquid Hexafluorosilicic acid which should add more uniform control of the addition.

### **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>

### **Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler systems with chemical feed
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

## **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)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.10	0.00	2.20	2016	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2	NA	2	2016	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	13.3	NA	13.3	2016	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.058	0.036	0.058	2016	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.1	0.0005	NA	0.0005	2016	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.193	NA	0.193	2016	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.67	NA	1.67	2016	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	NA	NA	ND	2016	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; 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	0.974	NA	0.974	2016	NO	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners

Contaminants	MCLG (ppm)	AL (ppm)	Your Water (ppm)	Sample Date	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps	0	15	0.0025	2015	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps	1.3	1.3	0.3157	2015	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Important Drinking Water Acronyms, Terms and Definitions		
Acronym	Term	Definition
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	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	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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	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	Monitored Not Regulated	A contaminant that is being monitored but has no current regulatory limit
MPL	Maximum Permissible Level	A State Assigned regulatory limit

Unit or Abbreviation	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
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.

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