

Highway 4-24 Water Association

2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand, and be involved in, the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. We purchase treated water from Camden Water Utilities whose source is surface water from Ouachita River.

How Safe Is The Source Of Our Drinking Water?

The Arkansas Department of Health has completed a Source Water Vulnerability Assessment for Camden Water Utilities. The assessment summarizes the potential for contamination of our source of drinking water and can be used as a basis for developing a source water protection plan. Based on the various criteria of the assessment, our water source has been determined to have a low susceptibility to contamination. You may request a summary of the Source Water Vulnerability Assessment from our office.

What Contaminants Can Be In Our Drinking Water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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, and wildlife; Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to assure tap water is safe to drink, EPA has regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Am I at Risk?

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. However, 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 small amounts of contamination. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. 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. In addition, EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Lead and Drinking Water

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 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>.

How Can I Learn More About Our Drinking Water?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Roger Brewer, Operator in Responsible Charge, at 870-685-2902. 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 second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Chidester water office, 5265 Hwy. 24 in Chidester.

TEST RESULTS

We and Camden Water Utilities routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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) - unenforceable public health 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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) - 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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a unit of measurement for the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per billion (ppb) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria (Hwy. 4-24 Water)	N	None	Present	0	1 positive sample per month	Naturally present in the environment
TURBIDITY						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Turbidity (Camden Water Utilities)	N	Highest yearly sample result: 0.322	NTU	NA	Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU constitutes a violation	Soil runoff
		Lowest monthly % of samples meeting the turbidity limit: 100%			A value less than 95% of samples meeting the limit of 0.3 NTU, constitutes a violation	
♦ Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. Camden Water Utilities monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration system.						
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride (Camden Water Utilities)	N	Average: 0.89 Range: 0.53 - 1.29	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING						
Contaminant	Number of Sites over Action Level	90 th Percentile Result	Unit	Action Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Lead (Highway 4-24 Water)	0	0.001	ppm	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (Highway 4-24 Water)	0	0.24	ppm	1.3		
♦ We are currently on a reduced monitoring schedule and required to sample once every three years for lead and copper at the customers' taps. The results above are from our last monitoring period in 2015. Our next required monitoring period is in 2018.						
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON						
♦ The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was routinely monitored by Camden in 2015, and all TOC removal requirements set by USEPA were met. Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAAs).						
REGULATED DISINFECTANTS						
Disinfectant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MRDLG (Public Health Goal)	MRDL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine (Highway 4-24 Water)	N	Average: 0.38 Range: 0.2 - 0.7	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

BY-PRODUCTS OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION					
Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (Highway 4-24 Water Association)	N	Highest Running 12 Month Average: 23 Range: 0 – 63.7 (Site YD004)	ppb	0	60
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (Highway 4-24 Water Association)	Y	Highest Running 12 Month Average: 97 Range: 68.3 – 120 (Site YD003)	ppb	NA	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. While only the upper end of the range of the Haloacetic Acids exceeded the MCL, it should be noted that some people who drink water containing Haloacetic Acids over the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. 					
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Chloroform (Camden Water)	14.0	ppb	70	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
Bromodichloromethane (Camden Water)	4.50	ppb	0		
Dibromochloromethane (Camden Water)	1.18	ppb	60		
Strontium (UCMR3) (Camden Water)	Average:58.33 Range: 30.4 -110	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions	
Vanadium (UCMR3) (Camden Water)	Average: 0.63 Range: 0.23 – 1.5	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst	
Chromium-6 (UCMR3) (Camden Water)	Average: 0.088 Range: 0.062 – 0.134	ppb	Undetermined	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys; chromium-3 or -6 forms are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preservation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) and MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) have not been established for all unregulated contaminants. 					

VIOLATIONS – Hwy. 4 & 24 Water Assoc.				
TYPE: By-Products	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:	
Exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the 12 month running annual average for Total Trihalomethanes (108 ppb in the winter quarter of 2015, 102 ppb in the spring quarter of 2015, 104 ppb in the summer quarter of 2015, and 97 ppb in the fall quarter of 2015)	1/1/2015	12/31/2015	Reviewing disinfection procedures and working on a solution to lower the levels of disinfection by-products in the distribution system	
TYPE: Bacteriological Sampling	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:	
Failed to take bacteriological samples in multiple sampling periods	7/1/2015	7/31/2015	Resumed bacteriological monitoring as required by state and federal regulations	

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Highway 4 & 24 Water Association is a public water system subject to regulation under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Those regulations require the notification of customers whenever a violation occurs and is the basis for this notice.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets national standards for drinking water and has established the maximum level for Total Trihalomethanes at 80 micrograms per liter. The level of Total Trihalomethanes in this water system exceeded the maximum level, averaging 104 micrograms per liter in the period July 1st to September 30th, 2015.

Trihalomethanes are a group of by-product chemicals which are formed by the use of chlorine in the treatment of drinking water. Disinfectants, such as chlorine, react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Certain DBPs, including some trihalomethanes and some haloacetic acids have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Other DBPs have been shown to affect the liver and the nervous system, and cause reproductive or developmental effects in laboratory animals. Exposure to certain DBPs may produce similar effects in people. EPA has set standards to limit exposure to trihalomethanes, acetic acids, and other DBPs.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the estimated cancer risk, if two liters of water containing the chemical at the maximum level are consumed each day for 70 years, cannot exceed a one in ten thousand probability and may be lower. Water with higher levels of the chemical would have a proportionately greater risk.

The Arkansas Department of Health has advised the water system that there is no immediate health risk from consuming the water. Failure to meet this standard does not mean that the water is unsafe or that alternate sources of water should be used. The water system is reviewing disinfection procedures and working on a solution to lower the levels of disinfection by-products in the distribution system.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, contact the water system at 870-685-2902, or the Engineering Section of the Department of Health at 501-661-2623.

Information on drinking water can be obtained from the Engineering Section at 501-661-2623, and on the health effects of Trihalomethanes from the Epidemiology Section at 501-661-2796.