

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Sparta

Water System Number: NC 01-03-010

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Kevin Dowell at 336-372-4257. 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 at Sparta Town Hall on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6pm.**

What EPA Wants You to Know

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and 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 ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. The Town of Sparta is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Kevin Dowell with The Town of

Sparta at 336-372-4257. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and prepared an inventory of all service lines in our water system. To access this inventory, contact Kevin Dowell with the Town of Sparta at 336-372-4257.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is well water that comes from 5 drilled wells in combination with purchased water.

This system purchases water from The Virginia/Carolina Water Authority - PWSID No. 1077825 which is ground water under the direct influence of surface water and is located at 1630 Moxley Ridge Road, Independence, VA 24348.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for The Town of Sparta was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
WELL #1	MODERATE	September 2020
WELL #9	MODERATE	September 2020
WELL #10	MODERATE	September 2020
WELL #17	MODERATE	September 2020
WELL #19	MODERTAE	September 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for The Town of Sparta may be viewed on the Web at: <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600> Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this website may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to swap@deq.nc.gov. Please indicate your system name, number, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report, please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at (919) 707-9098.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source(s) in several ways: (examples: dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center, volunteer in your community to participate in group efforts to protect your sources, etc.).

Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

During 2025, or during any compliance period that ended in 2025, we had no reporting violations and no MCL violations.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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

Herbicide – Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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) - 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.

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 (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Pesticide – Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Disinfection 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.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

Not-Applicable (N/A) – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular rule.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2025.** The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Lead and Copper Contaminants

The table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please email us at kdowell@townofsparta.org.

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water (90 th Percentile)	Number of sites found above the AL	Range		MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	9/17/2025	<0.05	0	<0.05	<0.05	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	9/17/2025	<3	0	<3	<3	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)	2025	N	32	25	32	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (ppb)	2025	N	31	16	40	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range		MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	N	0.78	0.27	1.25	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Asbestos Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Total Asbestos (MFL)	6/16/2022	N	ND	N/A	N/A	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate/Nitrite Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	11/20/2025	N	1.3	ND	1.3	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Alpha emitters (pCi/L) (Gross Alpha Excluding Radon and Uranium)	11/20/2025	N	N/A	ND	ND	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	11/20/2025	N	1.33	0.90	1.89	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	11/20/2025	N	N/A	ND	ND	0	20.1	Erosion of natural deposits

* Note: The MCL for beta/photon emitters is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Antimony (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Selenium (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
2,4-D (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		70	70	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		50	50	Residue of banned herbicide
Alachlor (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	2	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAH) (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	200	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		40	40	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	2	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		400	400	Discharge from chemical factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
DBCP [Dibromochloropropane] (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	200	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		7	7	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Endrin (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		2	2	Residue of banned insecticide
EDB [Ethylene dibromide] (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	50	Discharge from petroleum refineries

Heptachlor (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	400	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	200	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	1	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	50	50	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Methoxychlor (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	40	40	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	500	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	1	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	500	500	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	4	4	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	3	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle

Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Benzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon tetrachloride (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		100	100	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		600	600	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		75	75	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2 – Dichloroethane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1 – Dichloroethylene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		70	70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		100	100	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		700	700	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		100	100	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,2,4 – Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		70	70	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1 – Trichloroethane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		200	200	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2 – Trichloroethane (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		3	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND		0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Toluene (ppm)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	0	2	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (Total) (ppm)	9/25/2025	N	N/A	ND	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		SMCL
			Low	High	
Iron (ppm)	9/25/2025	3.1	0.23	3.1	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	9/25/2025	0.30	0.08	0.30	0.05
Sodium (ppm)	9/25/2025	5.1	5.0	5.1	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	9/25/2025	29.2	9.9	29.2	250
pH	9/25/2025	7.13	6.8	7.13	6.5 to 8.5

The PWS Section requires monitoring for other misc. contaminants, some for which the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color) in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Virginia-Carolina Water Authority

PWSID No. 1077825

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2025 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, please contact: Water Operator – Andy Blevins: 336-372-4257

If you want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact: Jose Butron – Chairman: 336-372-4257

The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows: 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM, Virginia-Carolina Water Treatment Plant, 1360 Moxley Ridge Road, Independence, Virginia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (i) microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (ii) 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; (iii) pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; (iv) organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; (v) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 who are 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE(S) and TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The sources of your drinking water are groundwater as described below:

Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water.

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system during 2001. All well sources were determined to be of highly susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years. The report is available by contacting Billy Cornett at the phone number or address given elsewhere in this drinking water quality report.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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, or MCLG - 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 Goal or MRDLG: the level of 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

Non-detects (ND) - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant 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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Level 1 assessment - a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 assessment - a very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* PMCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation (Y/N)	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.57	N	-	3/20/2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	N	-	3/20/2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.036	N	-	3/20/2025	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	1.2	N	-	5/12/2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	ND	N	-	5/12/2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity	NA	TT, 1 NTU Max	0.07		0.02-0.08	2025	Soil runoff
		TT, ≤ 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	100%	N			

Monitoring Results for Sodium (Unregulated-No Limits Designated)

Level Detected (units)	Sample Date	Typical Source	Guidance
5.40 mg/L	3/20/2025	Naturally Occurring; Addition of treatment chemicals/processes	For individuals on a very low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. Should you have a health concern, contact your health provider.

VIOLATION INFORMATION

Your water system did not have any MCL or TT violations during the year.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data presented in the above tables, though accurate, is more than one year old.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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. The Virginia Carolina Water Authority 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 two 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 (800-426-4791). You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Virginia Carolina Water Authority. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATERWORKS

Service Line Inventory

The Virginia Carolina Water Authority has completed the required Lead Service Line Inventory and submitted the results to the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water. Based on historical records and field investigation, we have determined that there are no Lead Service Lines needing replacement in the system. We thank you for your help and cooperation. The hard copy full inventory is available at the Virginia Carolina Water Authority offices.

Health Effects Information

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.