

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Hoke County Regional Water System

PWS ID# 03-47-025 & PWS ID# 03-47-030

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 from where your water comes, 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.

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

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. Hoke County Regional 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 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>.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source (Eastern & Southern Hoke County)

The water that is used by this system is groundwater from wells located throughout Hoke County. We have wells on Twin Creeks Drive, Noble Drive, Doc Brown Road, Adcox Road, Carolina Drive, Goose Pond Road, MacKay Court, McDougald Drive and Golf Course Road.

Each well has a 100-foot protected area from potential sources of contamination. Our treatment process includes disinfection, pH adjustment and treatment for iron at each entry point. Some of the water used in our system is purchased from the Fayetteville Works Commission (PWC). PWC's water comes from the Cape Fear River, the Little Cross Creek Watershed and Big Cross Creek.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source (Western Hoke County)

The water serving your home or business may have been pumped from a deep well, located on Neill Sinclair Road, which draws from the Black Creek aquifer or purchased from the McCain Correctional Hospital owned by the State of North Carolina Department of Corrections. McCain has four deep wells that draw from the Black Creek aquifer. All are located in the McCain community east of NC 211 near the Fort Bragg military reservation boundary.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), 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 Hoke County Regional Water System 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:

Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating
Well # 1, Antioch	Moderate
Well #2, Antioch	Moderate
Well #3, Airport	Moderate
Well #4, Wayside	Moderate
Well #5A, Wayside	Moderate
Well #6, Doc Brown Road	Moderate
Well #7, Arabia	Moderate
Well #9, Wayside	Moderate
Well #10, Airport	Moderate
Well #11, McDougald Downs	Moderate
Well #12, McDougald Downs	Moderate
Well #13, Neill Sinclair	Moderate
Well #14, Doc Brown #2	Moderate

The complete SWAP Assessment report for Hoke County Regional Water System may be viewed on the Web at: <http://swap.deh.enr.state.nc.us/swap/>. Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this web site 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@ncmail.net. Please indicate your system name, PWSID, 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 919-715-2633.

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

Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

During 2008 we received two violations. Hoke County Utilities failed to complete all monitoring for Radionuclides for entry point E10 (Adcox Road) for the compliance period beginning January 1, 2008. Test samples were pulled and sent to State Laboratory, but were never received by the State Laboratory and Hoke County Utilities was not notified of the missing sample. Upon notification, samples were collected and we are awaiting laboratory results. Also, samples taken during 2008 showed our system exceeded the MCL for TTHMs. The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 mg/L. The average level of TTHMs for the last 12 months was 0.082 mg/L. The water in this area of our

distribution system (Rockfish area) is purchased from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission (PWC). In late 2008 PWC added an additional water treatment process to decrease TTHM levels. The TTHM levels of all water samples taken in 2009 have been below the MCL. Some people who drink the water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Water Quality Data Table of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the 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, 2008.** The EPA or the State requires 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.

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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Extra Note: MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (presence or absence)	N	2	0	Two positive monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Antimony (ppb) EP5	05/04/05	N	4.0	N/A		6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Fluoride (ppm) EP10	07/25/06	N	0.15	0.15	ND	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Nitrate/Nitrite Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Low	High			
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) EP3 EP7 EP8 EP9	N N N N	4.19 3.65 2.25 2.38	N/A		10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)			N/A		1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Xylenes (Total) (ppm) EP9	09-10-08	N	.0013	ND	0.0013	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	09-09-08	0.497	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	09-09-08	0	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L) EP3 EP7	2006 2006	N N	4.89 5.85	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L) EP3 EP5 EP7 EP9	2006 2006 2006 2006	N N N N	3.28 1.43 3.99 3.92	0	50 *	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

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

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination			
TTHM (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]									
EP1	N	0.003	.001 .004	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination			
EP3	N	0.005	0 .001						
EP4	N	0.0003	0 .001						
EP5	N	0.002	0 .004						
EP7	N	0.001	0 0.002						
EP8	N	0.0325	0 0.129						
EP9	N	0.0005	0 .002						
E10	N	0.001	0 .003						
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]									
EP1	N	.0003	0 .001				N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
EP2	N	0.004	0 .015						
EP3	N	0.0025	0 .001						
EP4	N	0.0005	0 .001						
EP5	N	0.0003	0 .001						
EP7	N	0.0015	0 .005						
EP8	N	0.008	0 0.033						
EP9	N	.001	0 0.004						

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.

Secondary Contaminants, required by the NC Public Water Supply Section, are substances that affect the taste, odor, and/or color of drinking water. These aesthetic contaminants normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low/High	Secondary MCL
Iron (ppm)				
EP1	04-07-08	0.923		
EP1	05-28-08	0.171		
EP4	04-07-08	0.536	N/A	0.3
EP4	05-28-08	0.283		
EP5	04-07-08	0.912		
EP5	05-28-08	0.763		
Manganese (ppm)				
EP1	04-07-08	0.025	N/A	0.05
EP3	04-07-08	0.016		
EP5	04-07-08	0.014		
Sodium (ppm)				
EP1	04-07-08	40.9		
EP2	04-07-08	20.4		
EP3	04-07-08	31.0	N/A	N/A
EP4	04-07-08	24.2		
EP5	04-07-08	10.6		
EP8	02-18-08	20.2		
Ph				
EP1	04-07-08	7.05		
EP2	04-07-08	7.24		
EP3	04-07-08	7.17	N/A	6.5 to 8.5
EP4	04-07-08	9.25		
EP5	04-07-08	7.60		
EP8	02-18-08	6.72		

