

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report- Piney River

## **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?**

Your drinking water is a combination of groundwater and surface water in the Piney River area. The groundwater is pumped from six (6) wells and is introduced throughout the distribution system. The surface water is collected in the 14 MG Black Creek Reservoir located next to the NCSA Black Creek Treatment Plant. Water is stored at four (4) storage tanks located at a variety of locations within our system. Our distribution system consists of water mains ranging in diameter from 2"-16".

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

A source water assessment for the Nelson County Service Authority, Lovingson waterworks was completed by the Virginia Department of Health on May 2, 2002. The assessment determined that the wells serving our community may be susceptible to contamination because they are located in an area that promotes migration of contaminants from certain land use activities of concern.

## **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). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; 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 that 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.

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

If you have questions about this report or if you want additional information about any aspects of your drinking water, please contact Mr. George T. Miller, Jr., Executive Director at toll-free 1-888-263-5341. The times and location of regularly scheduled board meetings are as follows: The third Thursday of every month at 8:30am at the Nelson County Service Authority Administrative Building-basement located at 620 Cooperative Way, Arrington, VA 22922.

## **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

### **NOTICE TO CONSUMERS OF PINEY RIVER WATERWORKS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

State Health Officials have advised us of a failure to perform required monitoring in accordance with the Virginia Waterworks Regulations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. During the October 2023 monitoring period, we did not perform all the required monitoring for coliform bacteria. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

State Health Officials believe that there is little need for concern about the safety of your water because past records show that our waterworks has had no documented problems with bacteriological contamination; however, routine sampling and examination are required to

determine the quality of water delivered to our customers.

There is nothing you need to do at this time. We have since taken the November and December 2023 samples, which were "absent" for total coliform bacteria. In addition, the required chlorine monitoring was also performed for these samples.

### **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. Nelson County Service 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 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	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection 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	.78	.1	1.49	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	16	4	25	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	70	41	106	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.05	.01	.05	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	.2	ND	.2	2020	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	3.2	ND	3.2	2020	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.7	ND	1.7	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.6	.11	1.6	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		16.3	6.4	16.3	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	.1	ND	.1	2020	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	83.3	NA	NA	2023	No	Soil runoff
83.3% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .33. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.9	ND	4.9	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	3.8	ND	3.8	2020	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1.9	ND	1.9	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.098	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.3	2022	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)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

<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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