

# Watts Bar Utility District Water Quality Report 2002

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 10 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

If you live south of Kingston your water comes from wells located near the water treatment plant. If you live east of Kingston your water comes from the Tennessee River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. A well head protection plan is available for your review by contacting Mickey Barger at the Watts Bar Utility District between 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. weekdays.

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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).

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Mickey Barger at (865) 882-5058.**

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the second Tuesday, of each month 5:00 p.m. at Wolf Creek Fire Hall, 4793 Wolf Creek Road, Spring City TN off Highway 68 in Rhea County. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

## Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at Watts Bar Utility District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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.

## 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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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).



# Water Quality Data for Watts Bar Utility District

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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, or 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. 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.

This following section is for the people that live south of Kingston.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0		2002		0	>1 positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	0.1		2002	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Asbestos	No	< 0.18		6/13/00	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium <sup>2</sup>	No	< 3		6/13/00	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Copper	No	0.25		8/30/00	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	1.2		8/30/00	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	3.3		6/12/00	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Bromodichloromethane	No	3.6		6/15/00	ppb			
Chlorodibromomethane	No	2.5		6/15/00	ppb			
Unregulated IOC (sulfate)	No	10		1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Chloroform	No	4.0		6/15/00	Ppb			
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	0.38		11/27/02	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 0 out of 23 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

**This following section is for the people that live east of Kingston.**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0		2002		0	>1 positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	0.3	0.09-0.3 NTU	2002	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper	No	0.07		2002	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	< 2.5		2002	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	15		2002	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Fluoride	No	0.9 ppm		2002	ppm	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha	No	1.3		2002	PCi/1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes	No	48 avg.	4-120	2002	ppb	0 ppb	100 ppb	
Total Haloacetic Acid	No	45	10-86	2002	ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 0 out of 21 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

<sup>1</sup>100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

<sup>2</sup>While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.