

Watts Bar Utility District Water Quality Report 2003

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 8 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Tennessee River and Swan Pond Spring treated at the Kingston City water treatment plant. 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 office 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 7:00 pm at Wolf Creek Fire Hall, 4793 Wolfe 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

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.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained as a relation to time and money as 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** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- **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.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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		2003		0	>1 positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹	No	0.06		2003	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 ²	No	< 2		2002	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	1.12		2003	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium	No	10		2003	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Trihalomethanes	No	40 avg.	0 - 115	2003	ppb	0 ppb	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acid	No	25	0 - 72	2003	ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

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

¹100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

²Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).