



WATTS BAR UTILITY DISTRICT

## Water Quality Report for 2007

### Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. WBUD has 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 7 of these contaminants. WBUD found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

### What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water and purchased water, comes from wells and treated surface water. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water to this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at [www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml) or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

### 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).

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

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Mickey Barger at 800-882-5099.**

### How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at 4535 Watts Bar Hwy. You can join us at this time 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. WBUD has met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. WBUD wants you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

### Other Information

The Commissioners of Watts Bar Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Rhea County Mayor from a list of 3 nominees, certified by the Board of Commissioners to Roane, Meigs and Rhea County Mayors. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

### 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 System Security

Following the events of September 2001, WBUD realizes that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. WBUD urges the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to **800-882-5099**.



# 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.
- **MRDL**: 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 the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant 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.
- **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.
- **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		2007		0	<2 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	No	0.4		2007	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper*	No	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 0.11		2006	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*	No	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 13.0		2006	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	15.0		2007	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	26.65 once/yr	19.5-39.5	2007	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	15.4 once/yr	10.6-20.6	2007	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	1.70 avg.	0.9-2.9	2007	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

\*During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 2 out of 20 households sampled for lead contained concentrations exceeding the action level, and 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the copper action level. Infants 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).

<sup>1</sup>95% of our samples were below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU.

## **CROSS-CONNECTION INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS**

***WBUD would like to remind all of our customers that the Watts Bar Utility District and all utilities across Tennessee are concerned about cross-connections.***

***Over the next few months, the warm weather will bring people outdoors to work in their yards and gardens and begin getting swimming pools ready. WBUD would like to ensure that our customers are aware of the dangers associated with these activities. An ordinary garden hose is a common way to contaminate a water supply when the hose is submersed in any liquid or attached to certain devices used to spray pesticides or herbicides. This forms a cross connection. A cross connection is a situation where a possible source of contamination is directly linked to our public water system. If the end of your hose is connected to a chemical container, swimming pool or other contaminant during a water main break or fire, the substance can be siphoned back into the water system. This condition, known as back siphonage, could cause a public health hazard. Devices are available to prevent this problem; however the best solution is to always be careful how you use your water hose.***

***Please help us provide a safe supply of water to all of our customers. Remember; never place your water hose in anything you would not want to drink. For more information on cross connections and how to protect against them, call our office at 800-882-5099.***

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

**We all know that it has been extremely dry across the Southeast and the Watts Bar Utility District service area is no exception. In order for us all to have a safe and plentiful supply of water, it is very important that each of us conserve water during this unusually dry-weather period. Please use water wisely; check your indoor and outside plumbing for leaks and make necessary repairs so that we hopefully can avoid restrictions on water use in the future.**