



WATER QUALITY REPORT 2015 REPORTING YEAR

THE HISTORY OF DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) adopted the first federal drinking water standards in 1914. Only bacteriological contaminants were monitored under the standards and only in water supplied to interstate carriers, such as trains. The regulation of public water systems was at the discretion of individual states. In 1962, the USPHS standard was revised to cover 28 contaminants, but the standard was still only applied to water systems that supplied common carriers in interstate commerce. Not until 1972, when the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was formed, were bills introduced to give the federal government the authority to set enforceable drinking water standards.

Numerous studies conducted between 1969 and 1974 indicated that many people throughout the country were being supplied poor quality drinking water. A report published in 1974 showed that people drinking treated Mississippi River water (which had been shown to contain many organic

contaminants) were at a greater risk of developing cancer than people in the same area that drank ground water. Reactions to these studies by the public and the government culminated the passing of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act. Regulations based on this Act became effective in 1977 and essentially covered the same contaminants as the 1962 USPHS standard except they were applied to all public water systems.

Safe Drinking Water Act amendments in 1977, 1979, 1980 and 1986 resulted in new regulations covering radionuclides, trithalomethanes, corrosion by-products and microbiological contaminants. In 1996, Congress reauthorized and amended the Safe Drinking Water Act again. New regulations being developed under these amendments cover source water protection, system capacity, operator certification, contaminant selection and consumer confidence reports.

This is the consumer confidence report (CCR) for 2015.

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

York County purchases its potable water for the western distribution system from the City of Rock Hill. The City of Rock Hill owns and operates the water filter plant (WFP) on Cherry Road. This WFP filters and treats all the drinking water customers receive from the County's western distribution system.

The City's WFP filters and treats surface waters that are drawn from Lake Wylie. Lake Wylie is located on the Catawba River and within the Catawba-Wateree River sub-basin. The lake has been classified as good to fair in previous water quality assessment reports.

Raw water is pumped from the lake to the WFP where it is filtered and treated in accordance with state and federal drinking water standards. In order to maintain raw water quality, the City of Rock Hill has established and maintains a

200 foot wide buffer around the raw water intake structure. Protection of the buffer area is enforced by the South Carolina Wildlife Commission.

The distribution system that conveys the treated water to customer's homes and businesses is also operated in accordance with state and federal regulations. The County is required to obtain samples from the distribution system on a regular basis and test the water for contaminants. Contaminant levels are reported to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). York County and SCDHEC monitor the contaminate levels to assure that the drinking water you receive meets current standards and is safe for consumption. The following is a water quality Report for Year 2014.

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YORK COUNTY'S WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT STRIVES TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS OF YORK COUNTY DRINKING WATER THAT IS SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION. ITS WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS OPERATED AND MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL DRINKING WATER STANDARDS.

The York County Water and Sewer Department routinely monitors for contaminants in its water distribution system according to federal and state regulations. The following tables show monitoring results for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015.

2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT DATA

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Date of Testing	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	N	Rock Hill WFP 0.64	ppm	4	4	2015	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	Rock Hill WFP 0.26	ppm	10	10	2015	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminants	Action Level	90th Percentile Value	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding The Action Level	Date of Testing	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	0.015mg/l	Non-detect	0	2015*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	1.3 mg/l	0.029	0	2015*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Regulated Contaminants								
Disinfections and Disinfection By-Products	Collection date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	21	13.1-28.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	2015	81	28.4-99	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Violations Table			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, Average	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	Water samples showed that the amount of containment in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

In the previous data table, you may have found several terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

DEFINITIONS

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL): 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.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/l) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 1,903 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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.

York County is proud that the water distribution system that provides drinking water to you meets or exceeds federal and state requirements. York County has learned through its monitoring and testing that very few contaminants were detected, all of which were below the maximum allowable limit. The EPA has determined that the water supplied to your residence or establishments is SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person drinking 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime will have a one-in-a-million chance of experiencing a health effect.

Nitrates: As a precaution, if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply, York County will notify the proper authorities in the area of the concern.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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 and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Please call our office at 803-628-3211 if you have any questions. We, at York County, 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.

**YORK COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 120
YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA 29745**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

York County Public Works Department

**Water and Sewer Department (803) 628-3211
(7:00 am – 4:00 pm)**

**Water Quality Concerns (803) 628-3211
(7:00 am – 4:00 pm)**

**Water Bills (803) 327-8639
(7:00 am – 4:00 pm) or (803) 628-3211**

Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791

**S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (803) 898-4300
(Bureau of Water)**

**S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (888) 849-7241
(Division of Health Hazard Evaluation)**

Consumer Product Safety Commission (800) 638-2772

National Lead Information Center (800) 424-LEAD

***IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR DRINKING
WATER IS ENCLOSED.***

***PROVIDED BY:
YORK COUNTY***

If you have any questions regarding this report or your water utility, please contact David Hughes, York County Water and Sewer Department Supervisor, at 628-3211. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled York County Council meetings, which are held the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in the York County Agricultural Building. For more information on these meetings, please call the York County Manager's Office at 684-8511.