

2012 Water Quality Report

City of Walterboro

DHEC System # 1510004

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We are presently utilizing nine wells which draw from several different aquifers including the Tuscaloosa, Mendendorf, Floridan, and Black Creek.

A Source Water Assessment Plan has been prepared for our system. Our sourcewater assessment is available at the SCDHEC website www.scdhec.net/water/html/srcwtr.html. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, or if you do not have internet access, please contact Wayne Crosby at 843-549-2545. We want you, our neighbors and valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. Feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:15 pm at the City Hall.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. The City of Walterboro routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes and chemicals. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2012. In this table you will find the following terms and abbreviations:

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

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.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level - 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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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 (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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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.

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

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Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts						
Disinfectants and disinfection by-products	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MRDL	MRDLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine 2012	N	Aver=0.19 Range 0.08-0.97	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90 th percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over action level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper 2011	N	0.049 0>AL	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Inorganic Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Beryllium 2012	N	1.3 Range: 0-1.3	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Cadmium 2012	N	0.1 Range: 0-0.1	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries.
Fluoride 2012	N	1.3 Range: 0.42-1.3	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate 2012 Measured as Nitrogen	N	0.067 Range: 0-0.067	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water 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.



If you have special health needs--

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/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).

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. The City of Waltherboro 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 drinking 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>.

Did You Know?

- ☞ Utility Employees work for you 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to provide you with good safe water each time your tap is opened.
- ☞ Tap water is the best value for your money. A 16 ounce of bottled water cost about \$1.50, whereas 1000 gallons of tap water cost about \$2.00.
- ☞ The water we have today is all the water there will ever be.
- ☞ Drinking water in the Unites States is among the safest in the world.
- ☞ You can refill an 8 ounce glass of water 15,000 times for the same cost as a 6 pack of soda. And, water has no sugar or caffeine.
- ☞ The average family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times per day.