

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report: Hope Water & Light Commission

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Our sources are Little River and nine wells. Surface water from Little River is treated at a facility in Fulton. Six wells are located in the Oakhaven area north of Hope, and pump water from the Tokio Aquifer. The remaining three wells are located within the Hope city limits and pump water from the Nacatoch Aquifer to a ground storage tank.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The Arkansas Department of Health has completed a Source Water Vulnerability Assessment for Hope Water & Light Commission. The assessment summarizes the potential for contamination of our sources of drinking water and can be used as a basis for developing a source water protection plan. Based on the various criteria of the assessment, our water sources have been determined to have a low to medium susceptibility to contamination. You may request a summary of the Source Water Vulnerability Assessment from our office.

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.

In order to assure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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).

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. It is important to know that although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Our monitoring consisted of 24 monthly samples beginning January 2007 with only one detect in the month of February 2008. The result for the February 2008 sample was only 0.1 oocysts/Liter. This means that no additional treatment is required.

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. Hope Water & Light Commission 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 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>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Leslie R. Patterson II, P.E., R.S., Water System Planning Director, at (870) 777-3000 Ext. 521. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Friday of every even month at 7:30 AM at the Hope Water & Light Office.

Hope Water & Light Commission routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following 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 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) - unenforceable public health goal; 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.

NA - not applicable

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a unit of measurement for the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per million (ppm) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS						
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	1 positive sample in September	Present	0	1 positive sample per month	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	N	Highest yearly sample result: 0.24	NTU	NA	Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU constitutes a violation	Soil runoff
		Lowest monthly % of samples meeting the turbidity limit: 100%			A value less than 95% constitutes a violation	
♦ Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.						
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	N	Average: 0.96 Range: 0.89 – 1.08	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING						
Contaminant	Number of Sites over Action Level	90th Percentile Result	Unit	Action Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Lead	0	0.004	ppm	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper	0	0.22	ppm	1.3		
♦ The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was routinely monitored in 2008, and all TOC removal requirements set by USEPA were met. TOC has no health effects. However, Total Organic Carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).						
REGULATED DISINFECTANTS						
Disinfectant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MRDLG (Public Health Goal)	MRDL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine	N	Average: 1.1 Range: 0.5 – 2.9	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
BY-PRODUCTS OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected		Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids]	N	Highest Running 12 Month Average: 29 Range: 1.4 – 53.6		ppb	0	60
TTM [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	Highest Running 12 Month Average: 71 Range: 7.2 – 120.0		ppb	NA	80
Chlorite	N	Highest Quarterly Average: 162 Range: 0 – 278		ppb	800	1000
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Level Detected		Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Chloroform	Average: 20.1 Range: 0.65 – 39.6		ppb	70	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
Bromodichloromethane	Average: 5.39 Range: 1.02 – 9.76		ppb	0		
Dibromochloromethane	Average: 2.49 Range: 2.47 – 2.50		ppb	60		
Bromoform	Average: 5.4 Range: 0 – 10.8		ppb	0		
♦ Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) and MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) have not been established for all unregulated contaminants.						

En Español: Este folleto le muestra como es que Hope Water & Light continúa proveyéndolo a usted de un servicio de agua segura y confiable. Si tiene usted preguntas acerca de la calidad del agua, llame a Leslie R. Patterson II, P.E., R.S., al teléfono 777-3000 durante las horas regulares de oficina.