

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant

Water System Number: **60-70-000**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact David Smithson at (252)-340-9633. 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. The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in Courtroom C on the second floor of the Pasquotank County Courthouse.**

What EPA Wants You to Know

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 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)**.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

Who is Responsible?

The Safe Drinking Water Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for setting national drinking water standards that protect the health of the 250 million people who get their water from public water systems. Other people get their water from private wells which are not subject to Federal Regulations. Since 1974, EPA has set national safety standards for over 80 contaminants that may occur in drinking water.

While EPA and state governments set and enforce standards, local governments and private water suppliers have direct responsibility for the quality of the water that flows to your tap. Water systems test and treat their water, maintain the distribution systems that deliver water to consumers, and report on their water quality to the state. States and the EPA provide technical assistance to water suppliers and can take legal action against systems that fail to provide water that meets state and EPA standards.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. We have implemented the following source water protection action: Wellhead Protection Plan. You can help protect your community's drinking water source(s) in several ways: dispose of chemicals and expired medications properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center, volunteer in your community to participate in group efforts to protect your source water.

The water that is used by this system is ground water ... and is located throughout the northwestern portion of Pasquotank County.

Foreman Bundy Well ____ 557 Foremen Bundy Rd.
Larabee Well _____ 573 Ownley Rd.
Pike Well _____ 976 Cherry Glade Rd.
Wesley 1 Well _____ 929 Cherry Glade Rd.

2016 Water Characteristics

The Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis WTP routinely monitors for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following tables list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. [Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2016.](#) The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Microbiological Quality

Bacterial and other harmful organisms are removed by physical processes and disinfection chemicals. The federal MCL for total coliform is the presence in 5% of the monthly samples. In 2016 Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis WTP did not detect the presence of total coliform bacteria in any monthly compliance samples.

Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	Year Sampled	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest RAA)	Range		MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	N	.9	0.8	0.9	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Radiological Quality

Radiological quality was tested the first two quarters in 2013. Radiological testing is not due again until January 2017. Test results were below detection limits.

Lead & Copper

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. Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis WTP 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 thirty seconds to two 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>.

The Federal Lead & Copper Rule mandates a household testing program in accordance with the 1994 Lead & Copper Rule. According to the rule, 90% of the samples from high risk homes in Pasquotank County cannot exceed 0.015 mg/l lead and 1.3 mg/l copper. [In 2016 samples taken from high risk homes, the 90th percentile results were ND of lead and ND copper.](#) The next round of lead & copper sampling is due in 2017.

Organic Compounds

There are a number of organic compounds that are of concern in drinking water. This group includes volatile organic compounds that vaporize easily called VOC's, synthetic organic compounds including pesticides and herbicides called SOC's and compounds that occur as a by-product when water is disinfected

SOC's were tested quarterly in 2014. [Testing included 26 regulated compounds. Test results showed all compounds tested were below the detection limit.](#) SOC's are due to be tested again in 2017.

VOC's were tested in April 2016. [There were a total of 21 regulated compounds tested. All compounds tested yielded results below detection limits.](#)

Inorganic Compounds / Nitrate & Nitrite

Nitrite and 17 compounds were tested in September 2016. All tested below the detection limit with exception of the following:

Contaminant	Result	MCL
Fluoride	.93 mg/l	4.00 mg/l
Sodium	73.67 mg/l	Not Regulated

THM's (Trihalomethanes) & HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)

Under the new stage II DBP (Disinfect By-Product) Rule, which became effective in October 2013, we are required to collect and analyze two target distribution samples once a year. Results for samples collected in July 2016 were as follows:

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Compliance - Based upon Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)	2016	N	21			N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
B01	2016	N		21	21	N/A	80	
HAA5 (ppb)	2016	N	1.6			N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
B02	2016	N		1.6	1.6	N/A	60	

Terms and Definitions

In this report you may find terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions

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 (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action Level (AL) - 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) - 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 Disinfection 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 Disinfection 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.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) - The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

mrem – millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Treatment Technique or TT – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.