

# 2015 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF TAP WATER AT FORT MONROE, VA PWSID #3650150



## **Introduction**

This annual water quality report or Consumer Confidence Report is prepared and distributed by Veolia and the Fort Monroe Authority as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is reviewed and approved by the Virginia Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water in Richmond. This report explains where your water comes from, what analytical testing shows about it, and other things you should know about your drinking water. Fort Monroe's goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. Drinking water quality must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The water produced by Newport News Waterworks (NNWW) is treated and tested by state-of-the-art equipment and techniques and meets or exceeds state and federal standards for water-quality.

## **General Information**

Generally speaking, 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 radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organics, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## **Water Sources and Treatment**

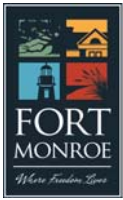
During 2015, the drinking water at Fort Monroe was purchased from Newport News Waterworks (NNWW). NNWW's primary source of water is surface water. It begins with the Chickahominy River. When available, water is pumped from the river, above Walkers Dam, and is transferred through pipes to reservoirs for storage. NNWW owns and operates five reservoirs that store and supply water to the treatment plants. Brackish (slightly salty) groundwater from deep wells in the Lee Hall area provide a second source of water. The two source waters are treated separately, then blended together before distribution to the service area.

Untreated water is pumped to the NNWW treatment plants, where it passes through screens, before aluminum sulfate (alum) and polymer are added. These chemicals cause tiny particles in the water to cling together (coagulation), making the particles easier to remove. After the water is clarified, ozone (disinfection) is added to kill microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses. The water is then sent through filters to remove any remaining particles (filtration). Lime is added to adjust the pH, fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay, and zinc orthophosphate is added to control corrosion inside the pipe system. Finally, chloramines, the secondary disinfectant, are added to maintain disinfection through the pipe system to your home or business.

The brackish groundwater is pumped to a desalination plant located at the Lee Hall facility. Using a process called reverse osmosis, water is forced by high pressure through membranes that can remove the salt and other contaminants to produce very high quality water. The water is blended with treated surface water and sent out to the NNWW customers.

## **Surface Water Source Assessment**

According to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission's 2001-02 Source Water Assessment, NNWW surface water sources were rated as relatively high in susceptibility to contamination (which is one reason why water treatment is so important), while NNWW deep groundwater wells were rated as low in susceptibility using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report includes maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land-use activities, a susceptibility explanation chart, and definitions of key terms. A copy of the report is available from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (757) 420-8300 or Newport News Waterworks (757) 926-1000.



## Water Quality Testing

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish the limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. The water quality information listed here is based upon tests conducted in 2015 by NNWW. Samples of treated water were taken at regular intervals from specific locations (residences, businesses, and the treatment plants) across the Waterworks service area. Every regulated substance that we detected in the water, even in the smallest traces, is listed in TABLE 1 below. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, and whether or not Waterworks meets the set regulation. For help understanding the tables below, please see the explanation of terms at the right and the footnotes at the bottom of the table.

NNWW participated in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) third round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). Approximately 6,000 utilities nationwide monitored unregulated contaminants for a year to help the EPA determine the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether or not they need to be regulated for protection of public health. The results of our findings are in TABLE 2 below.

### Definitions of Key Terms Used in the Tables

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.
- MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level 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.
- MRL (Minimum Reporting Level):** An estimate of the lowest concentration of a compound that laboratories would report as a detection.
- MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.
- 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 contamination.
- NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit):** A measure of water clarity. Turbidity greater than five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- pCi/L (Picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- ppm (Parts per million or milligrams per liter [mg/L]):** Equivalent to one penny in \$10 thousand.
- ppb (Parts per billion or micrograms per liter [µg/L]):** Equivalent to one penny in \$10 million.
- ppt (Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter [ng/L]):** Equivalent to one penny in \$10 billion.
- TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

### Tables 1 & 2 - Contaminants in Water at Newport News Waterworks

Table 1 - Regulated Substances						
Contaminant - Unit of Measurement	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)	Highest Result (what we found)	Range of Test Results Low-High	Meets State & Federal Standards	Likely Source
<b>INORGANICS</b>						
Copper - ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.084 <sup>1</sup>	0.011-0.172	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead - ppb	0	AL = 15	0.0 <sup>1</sup>	0-4.6	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride - ppm	4	4	0.98	0.90-0.98	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium - ppm	2	2	0.024	0.021-0.024	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate - ppm	10	10	0.040	0.038-0.040	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite - ppm	1	1	0.001	<0.001	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND PRECURSORS</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) - ppb	0	80	22 <sup>2</sup>	5-42	YES	By-product of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) - ppb	0	60	31 <sup>2</sup>	< 2.0-39	YES	By-product of chlorination
Total Organic Carbon Removal	none	TT	1.22 <sup>3</sup>	1.05-1.94	YES	Naturally present in the environment
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>						
Turbidity - NTU	none	TT	0.22 <sup>4</sup>	0.02-0.22	YES	Soil runoff
Chloramines - ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	3.5 <sup>2</sup>	< 0.02-5.8	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>RADIOLOGICAL - results from 2010, required to test again in 2016</b>						
Beta/Photon Emitters -pCi/L	0	4	1.8	1.8	YES	Decay of natural & man-made deposits

Table 2 - Non-regulated microbials monitored at the source*					
Contaminant - Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Highest Amount Detected	Range of Test Results (Low-High)	Likely Source
Cryptosporidium - #/L	n/a	TT	0.163	<0.041-0.163	Human or animal fecal waste

**Table 3 - Contaminants in Water at Newport News Waterworks**

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MRL	Average Detected Amount	Range of Test Results (Low-High)	Likely Source
<b>UNREGULATED ORGANICS - MONITORED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT</b>				
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	2.3	1.1-3.5	By-product of chlorination
Dichlorobromomethane (ppb)	n/a	2.6	2.5-2.6	By-product of chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	n/a	2.2	0.9-3.4	By-product of chlorination
<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING REGULATION (UCMR<sup>3</sup>)</b> <b>This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health.</b>				
Chlorate (µg/L)	20	177	0-550	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfectant by-product; and used in production of chlorine dioxide
Total Chromium (µg/L)	0.2	0.19	0-0.74	Naturally occurring, used in industry and can be discharged by industrial facilities. Total Chromium is the sum of chromium in all its valence states.
Hexavalent Chromium Cr-6 (dissolved) (µg/L)	0.030	0.088	0.044-0.180	Naturally occurring. Used in making steel and other alloys. A new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) risk assessment, not finalized yet, has raised concerns about the risk to human health.
Strontium (µg/L)	0.3	130	90-200	Naturally occurring. Has been used commercially to produce color TV tubes. It also blocks x-ray emissions.
Vanadium (µg/L)	0.2	0.71	0.49-1.00	Naturally occurring. Is used as an additive to steel to make engine parts and tools.

**Endnotes for Tables 1 through 3:**

All results reported in the table above, except for lead, copper and radiological, are for samples taken in 2014-2015 (those samples taken in 214 are part of a required four-quarter running average). Radiological results are from samples taken in 2010. Lead and copper samples were collected and analyzed in 2013. Lead, copper and radiological samples will be taken again in 2016.

- At least 90% of the samples were at or below this level. None of the individual samples exceeded the Action Level. Because our lead and copper levels are so low, we only have to test every three years.
- The highest detected level is based on a four-quarter running average of several samples. For Chloramines, it is a system-wide running annual average. For TTHM and HAA5, it is a locational running annual average. The range numbers are the results from individual samples taken in 2015. The data in "Highest Result" column include samples from 2014.
- Compliance is based on a running four-quarter average. The range is the individual monthly ratio from both water treatment plants. TOC has no adverse health effects, but can be a critical component in the formation of disinfection by-products. The data in "Highest Result" column include samples from 2014. The range is for samples taken in 2015.
- Turbidity is a measure of water cloudiness. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. 100% of samples were within the turbidity limit.

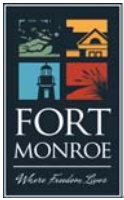
**Table 4 - Regulated Contaminants in Fort Monroe Distribution System Water**

Contaminant, units	Year, Month or Date of Sample	MCLG	MCL	Test Result	Result Range	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethane TTHM (Note 1)	Quarterly	0	80 ppb	18 ppb	5.4 - 39 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (Note 1)	Quarterly	0	60 ppb	ND	ND - ND	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine (Chloramines) (Note 2)	Monthly	4	MRDL=4.0	0.20 ppm	ND - 1.03 ppm	Additive used to control microbes
Lead, ppb (Note 3)	August 2015	0	AL=15	< 1 90th percentile	ND - ND	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper, ppm (Note 3)	August 2015	0	AL=1.3	0.77 90th percentile	0.024 - 1.03	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	Month of Sampling	MCLG	MCL	No. of Samples Indicating Presence of Bacteria	Violation (Y/N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	December 2015	0	2 positive samples per month	1	N	Naturally present in the environment

**Endnotes for Table 4:**

The state allows Fort Monroe and NNWW to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

- At the end of each quarter in 2015, we calculated the running annual average for TTHM and HAA5 for each of the sample sites. The test result for TTHM is the highest running annual average of the four running annual averages for each of the sample sites. The test result for HAA5 was similarly determined. The result ranges are the highest and lowest values found in the individual samples collected in 2015.
- We measure the chloramine residual whenever we collect a compliance bacteriological sample. A running average of the chloramine residuals was calculated every quarter in 2015. The test result for the chloramines was the highest of the four running annual averages. The result range is the highest and lowest residuals found in the individual measurements in 2015.
- At least 90% of samples were at or below this level. The test results are 90th percentile values. None of the individual samples exceeded the Action Level. Our next required monitoring will be to collect 5 lead and copper samples during the June 2018 through September 2018 monitoring period.



## Water Quality Information

- **Sodium** – The EPA has not set a standard for sodium in drinking water. However, sodium levels are usually low and unlikely to be a significant contribution to adverse health effects. The average level of sodium found in our treated water in 2015 was 18.8 mg/L, and the range was 8.1-39.6. Should you have a health concern, please contact your health care provider.
- **Lead** - Lead is not detectable in the treated water tested monthly from either treatment plant. However, if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials associated with service lines and home plumbing. Newport News Waterworks is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 15 to 30 seconds, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature, before using water for drinking or cooking. Waterworks recommends that you prepare baby formula with cold water. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).
- **Hardness** - No EPA standard is set. Water treated by Newport News Waterworks is considered moderately soft (4-6 grains which is equal to 70-120 mg/L as calcium carbonate or CaCO<sub>3</sub>). In 2015 the average was 73 mg/L with a range of 46-96.
- **Fluoride** - Fluoride is added to water to prevent tooth decay. Newport News Waterworks adheres to drinking water regulations set by the EPA and guidance provided by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The range for prevention of dental cavities is 0.8 mg/l to 1.0 mg/l. Waterworks' average fluoride level is within the optimum range. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed recommendation to lower the fluoride level is being studied nationally and locally. If the VDH alters their fluoride guidance to Virginia water utilities, NNWW has stated they will comply.
- **Cryptosporidium** - Cryptosporidium is a parasitic microbe found in surface waters throughout the U.S. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms at very low levels in our source water but not in our treated water. Current test methods approved by the EPA do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. 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. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Public Participation Opportunities

Because NNWW is a department of the City of Newport News, major decisions about your drinking water are made by Newport News City Council. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm, and you are welcome to attend and participate. These meetings are broadcast live on Newport News City Channel (in Newport News - Cox channel 48 and Verizon FIOS channel 19) and can be viewed live or on-demand by all customers in our service area on the web at [www.nnva.gov/nntv](http://www.nnva.gov/nntv).

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is governed by a twelve member Board of Trustees. The FMA Board meets no less than quarterly to discuss operations and to make managerial and financial decisions including matters related to the water distribution system on Fort Monroe. You are welcome to attend and participate in these meetings as well. The schedule of upcoming meetings can be found on the web at [www.fmauthority.com/public-meetings/meeting-schedule/](http://www.fmauthority.com/public-meetings/meeting-schedule/).

## Information for Special Populations

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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