

# 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**Natchez Water Works  
2014 Drinking Water Quality Report  
May 2015**

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The Natchez Water Works routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Samples are taken daily to monitor chlorine content, PH levels, and fluoride levels. Samples are taken at various locations throughout the city on a monthly basis that test for the detection of coliform bacteria. Other tests are conducted on a more infrequent basis.

#### **Is my water safe?**

Yes. Last year we conducted tests for many contaminants. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Natchez Water Works is committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

#### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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, persons 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **Where does my water come from?**

Our water source is from four wells in the Lower Catahoula Formation Aquifer and one well in the Catahoula Formation Aquifer.

#### **Source water assessment and its availability.**

Our source water assessment has been completed. For a report, please contact our office at 601-445-5521.

#### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 (800-426-4791).

#### **How can I get involved?**

Please join us for our monthly Board of Water Commissioners meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:15 at our office at 150 N. Shields Lane, Natchez, MS. Please be assured that those of us who work with the Natchez Water Works work hard every day to provide quality drinking water to every customer. 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.

#### **Additional Information for Fluoride.**

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", the CITY OF NATCHEZ is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 100%.

#### **Additional Information for Lead.**

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. City of Natchez 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>.

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### **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

**~SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WATER QUALITY TABLE AND DEFINITIONS~**

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.6	1.3	2.0	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	54.45	38.9	63.7	2014	No	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	19.0	11.0	24.0	2014	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.01			2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.883			2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.25			2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.1	0.0059			2014	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	0.047			2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	0.466			2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1628	2012	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead (ppm)	0	15	0.0049	2012	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range		2014
		Low	High	
Chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium) (ppb)	0.234	0.048	0.42	2014
chromium (total chromium) (ppb)	0.31	NA	0.31	2014
Strontium (ppb)	30.5	24	37	2014
Vanadium (ppb)	0.31	NA	0.31	2014

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L: Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water system must follow.
Variations and Exceptions	Variations and Exceptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 contaminants.
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.
MNR	Monitored not regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level