

# South Pittsburg Board of Water Works Water Quality Report 2015

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 6 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water comes from the Tennessee River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. The Tennessee Dept. of Environment has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for the untreated water sources. The Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geological factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Our rating is reasonably susceptible. An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed at [www.tn.gov/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml) or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Donald Blansett at 837-7164. Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. CST at 138 Cedar Avenue. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.



## 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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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).

## Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at South Pittsburg Water Works work around the clock to provide top

quality water to every tap. 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.

The sources of drinking 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, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants

in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Information on Lead in Drinking Water

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. South Pittsburg Board of Water Works 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.

# Water Quality Data

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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 Levels 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.
- **MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of 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.

## Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.

- **AL - Action Level,** or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained as a relation to time and money as 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** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **TT - Treatment Technique** or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0 positive samples		2015		0	1 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
<sup>1</sup> Turbidity	N	0.19 Ave.		2015	NTU	.3	TT (95% < 0.3 NTU)	Soil runoff
<sup>2</sup> Copper	N	90 <sup>th</sup> % =0.3		2014	Ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	0.61 Ave.	0.1-2.0 ppm	2015	Ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<sup>2</sup> Lead	N	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 3		2014	Ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2.26 ppm		2015	Ppb	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
<sup>3</sup> TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	N	24 Ave. ppb	23-89 ppb	2015	Ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<sup>3</sup> HaloAceticAcids	N	19 Ave. ppb	17-60 ppb	2015	Ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	N	1.4 Ave.	0.2-4.0	2015	Ppm	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Drinking water disinfectant
<sup>4</sup> Total Organic Carbons	N	1.21 Ave.	0.5-4.0 ppm	2015	Ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the Environment

### Other Information

<sup>1</sup>One hundred percent (100%) of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

<sup>2</sup>During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 1 out of 23 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

<sup>3</sup> Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>4</sup>The Treatment Technique for Total Organic Carbon was met in 2015.