

# Sweetwater Utilities Board

## Water Quality Report-2017

**Is my drinking water safe?** We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. Yes, our water meets all EPA's health standards. This is the fifteenth installment of an annual report to you, the customer, informing you about the quality of drinking water and services that we deliver to you every day. This report is available at our office or at [www.sweetwaterutilities.com](http://www.sweetwaterutilities.com). Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

### **What is the source of my water?**

Our surface water source is Sweetwater Creek and Cannon Spring. Both water sources are combined at the treatment plant. Customers on the east side of our service area also receive water from Tellico Area Services System. 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 and slightly susceptible. 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/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html](http://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html) or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.

### **Are there contaminants in my 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

All sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 of source water may include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic compounds, 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 compounds, 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 Dept. 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. The table on the following page shows the detected substances in your water. All of the detected substances were well below the maximum limits, set by EPA and the State of Tennessee.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call us at (423) 337-5081.**

## How can I get involved?

Our regularly scheduled board meetings are held on the last Monday of every month at 5:30 P.M. in the Sweetwater Utilities Board conference room located at 101 Oak Street.

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

We have a wellhead protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

## 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 their personal sanitation, food preparation, handling infants and pets, and 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).

## 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 Level, or 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.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **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.
- **ND Non-Detects:** laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.

Substance (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level found	Range of detections	Violation	Date of sample	Typical source of Substance
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1 Positive Sample	0	0	No	2017	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper *	1.3	AL=1.3 ppm	90 <sup>th</sup> %=.155 ppm		No	2015&2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4 ppm	0.66 avg.	0.35- 0.89 ppm	No	Daily 2017	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead*	0	AL=15 ppb	90 <sup>th</sup> %=3.7 ppb		No	2015&2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10 ppm	1.47	0.125-1.47 ppm	No	2017	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	9.46 ppm	3.29-9.46 ppm	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	n/a	TT (95% <0.3 NTU)	0.11 avg.	0.06-0.29 ntu	No	Continuously 2017	Soil runoff

<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
Total Organic Carbon**	TT	TT	0.834 ppm	ND-0.834 ppm	No	Quarterly 2017	Naturally present in the environment
Total Haloacetic Acids		60 ppb	50 ppb avg.	20 – 60 ppb	No	Quarterly 2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes		80 ppb	60 avg. ppb	20-70 ppb	No	Quarterly 2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Substance (Units)	MRDLG	MRDL					
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4	MRDL=4	1.72 ppm ave.	1.0 – 2.2 ppm	No	Daily 2017	Water additive for disinfection

**\*We had zero sites out of thirty (30) sites exceed the action level of lead or copper.**

**\*\* We met the Treatment Technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon.**

**Turbidity:** Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly.

**Abbreviations:** PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per liter. PPM: parts per million or milligrams per liter.

N/A: not applicable. NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water. MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration. AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. TT: Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. BDL: Below Detection Limit.

**About the data:** Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between Jan. 1- Dec.31, 2016. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year, and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

## **Required Consumer Confidence Report statement addressing 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. Sweetwater Utilities Board 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 your potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the 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 would like to learn more about Lead in Drinking Water, go to the following On-Line Resources**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Lead Hotline – The National Lead Information Center  
<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm>

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
“Lead in Drinking Water”  
<http://epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html>

U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
“Lead and Drinking Water From Private Wells”  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/healthywater/factsheets/lead.htm>

National Center for Environmental Health  
“Lead in Water: Questions and Answers”  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faq/leadinwater.htm>

Mayo Clinic  
“Lead Poisoning”  
<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/lead-poisoning/FL00068>