The City of Walhalla Water Quality Report - 2013

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su aqua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. [translated: This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it well.]

Introduction

In compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the City of Walhalla Water System is providing its customers with the annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies**. For more information about your drinking water, please contact Scott Parris at City Hall @ 864-638-4343.**

Does My Drinking Water Meet EPA Standards?

Yes, our water meets or exceeds all of the EPA standards. In 2013, we, or SCDHEC, conducted more than 15,000 tests for over 55 contaminants that may be in drinking water.

What Is the Source of My Water?

Your water comes from several tributaries of Coneross Creek. They originate from the Piedmont foothills in Sumter National Forest west of Walhalla at Yellow Branch Falls, upstream of Lake Jemike, to White Fork Branch, upstream of Coneross Creek Reservoir, along Poor, Buzzard Roost, and Hurricane Mountains. At the treatment plant, we add Ferric Chloride and lime at our Coagulation point. We add additional lime to adjust our PH, Chlorine as a disinfectant, Fluoride for health purposes, and phosphate as a corrosion inhibitor in the distribution pipes. Our Source Water Assessment Plan is available for your review at City Hall, or at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/Oconeeswp/3710004s.pdf.

How Can I Get Involved?

Our Water Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm in The Walhalla City Hall. Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Walhalla City Hall at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to attend these meetings.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

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 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 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 before we treat it include:

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, 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Water Quality Data Table

The water quality data table on the next page lists all the contaminants that were detected during monitoring for the 2013 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water, does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Definitions of the terms and abbreviations used in the table are included.

Definitions

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

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.

AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

n/a: Not applicable.

nd: Not detectable at testing limit.

ppb/l: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

ppm/l: Parts per million or milligrams per liter or milligrams per liter corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person..

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level is 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 is the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Additional Information Concerning 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. The City of Walhalla in 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 cooking or drinking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2013	1.3	1.3	0.28	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

WATER QUALITY DATA- The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected for the 2013 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. The testing for these compounds is part of our routine analytical practice of protecting your health. The data in this table is from testing done between Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year. For those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Found	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2013	1	1-1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water Additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA%)	2013	48	30.3 – 70.4	No Goal For The Total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2013	48	38.4 – 80.6	No Goal For The Total	80	Ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2013	0.7	0.64-0.72	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2013	0.22	0.20-0.22	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Total Organic Carbon – The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

As you can see by the table, our system had **no violations**. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose for unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control has monitored The City of Walhalla water system for four consecutive quarters during the calendar year 2013 for the parameters required of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2 (UCMR2). No detections were found for these parameters.

We at the Walhalla Utility Department 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. Thank you for your cooperation.