# First Utility District Hawkins County Water Quality Report for 2015

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. Vile have conducted

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 geologic human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The First Utility District Hawkins County sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination. Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report minerals and, in some

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 9 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water is treated surface water from the Holston River. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to be viewed online at https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-source-water-assessment 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. 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 (800-4264791),

Este informe contiene informaciân muy importante. Tradüscalo o hable con alguien que 10 entienda bien.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Keith Herron at 423-357-7511.

## How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at 523 W. Main Blvd. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of First Utility District Hawkins County serves four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Hawkins Co. Mayor from a list of three nominees. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

## 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. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

## Other Information

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:

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 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

- 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 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

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



the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. First Utility District of Hawkins County water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health

## 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.

## 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 First UD of Hawkins Co. 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/lead/protect-your-family%23water%23water

## Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001 , we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 423-357-7511.

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Pharmaceuticals In Drinking Water
Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Learn more about disposing of unused medicines at https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/sp-unwanted-pharmaceuticals

# 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.
- 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 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.
- AI: - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Below Detection Level (BDL) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- 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.
- 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.
- 11 - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Level Detected | Range of Detections | Date of Sample | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Coliform Bacteria | | 0 | | 2015 | | 0 | 1 positive sample | Naturally present in the environment |
| Turbidityl | No | 0.28 | 0.03-0.28 | 2015 | NTU | n/a | | Soil runoff |
| Copper | No | 90 0/0= 0.0824 | | 2015 | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Fluoride | No | 0.525 Avg. | 0.400.525 | 2015 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Lead | | 90t _ 0/0 1.45 | | 2015 | ppb | 0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural de osits |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | | 1.1 | | 2015 | ppm | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | tanks, sewage; erosion of natural de osits |
| Sodium | No | 24.3 | | 2015 | ppm | N/A | N/A | Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment |
| TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] | No | 74.83 Avg. | BDL 34.8 | 2015 | ppb | n/a | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | | 27.33 Avg. | BDL 23.0 | 2015 | ppb | | 60 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Organic Carbon [3] | No | | | 2015 | ppm | | | Naturally present in the environment. |
| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Level Found | Range of Detections | Date of Sample | Unit Measurement | MRDLG | MRDL | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Chlorine | No | 1.37 Av | 0.90-2.40 | 2015 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Water additive used to control microbes. |

1100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit. During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. We have met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal. TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes].

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**Unregulated Contaminants**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RDX | No | 1.07 Avg. | 0.17-1.43 | 2015 | ppb | N/A | N/A | Manufacture of Explosives |

*Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether further regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.