WATER SUPPL
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2014 Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report

This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. **We are proud to report that the water provided by The City of Starkville meets or exceeds established water-quality standards.**

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, senior citizens and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA's Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants and are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The City of Starkville is supplied by groundwater pumped from 7 wells, each about 1400 feet deep in the Gordo aquifer, into 2 treatment facilities located on the corner of Douglas L. Conner and Curry streets, an additional facility on the corner of Academy Rd. and S. Montgomery, and our treatment plant located on Bluefield Road. We also have five 500,000 gallon elevated storage tanks and 2 booster stations.

Source water assessment and its availability

Our source water assessment has been completed. Our wells ranked LOW in terms of susceptibility to contamination. For a copy of the report, please contact our office at 662-323-3505.

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?

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Scott Thomas at 662-323-3505. We want our valued customers to be informed about their drinking water. If you wish to discuss your drinking water with the Board of Alderman, you may be placed on the meeting agenda by calling the Mayor's office at 662-324-4011, ext. 101. Regular Board meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the City Hall board room at 5:30 PM. The public is welcome.

Water Conservation

The City of Starkville is committed to developing a sustainable community. We are fortunate to have a plentiful and inexpensive supply of ground water. However, we believe that we must take steps today to ensure that this precious life sustaining resource will be available to future generations.

The average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day. There are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference. Some suggested measures are:

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Discuss water conservation with your children. Try initiating a family project to chart each month's water bill so that the results of your conservation efforts are visible.
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection

You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public sewer system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's "Adopt Your Watershed" service to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's "How to Start a Watershed Team."
- Continue the storm drain labeling project started in Starkville by a local Cub Scout pack. Labels were placed at many street drains reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information Regarding 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. The City of Starkville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household 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 (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.80	0.3	1.40	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	11	0	11	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	60	2.04	0	2.04	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Chromium(ppm)	.1	.1	.003	.0019	.003	2013	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.1127	0.0497	0.1127	2013	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	.05	.05	0.0043	ND	0.0043	2013	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.391	.132	.391	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	0	15	.0006	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - 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 - 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.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", our system is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year that average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 9. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 81%.

For more information please contact:

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