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# 2015 Annual Water Quality Report

## South Central Water Association, Inc.

June 27, 2016  
PWN ID: 0250022

We are pleased to present to you this year's 2015 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you each day. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. Our constant 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Louis C. "Buddy" Hand, General Manager, at 601-878-9639 during regular business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If you want to learn more about the system, please attend our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 7:30 pm at the Mississippi Rural Water Association office; 5400 Midway Road at Highway 18.

Our water is drawn from the Forest Hill Sand Aquifer and Sparta Aquifer. SCWA routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it may pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Your water is treated with chlorine, a disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Our source water assessment has been completed and our wells were ranked from Lower to Moderate in terms of susceptibility to contamination. To see a copy of the report please contact our office at 601-878-9639.

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

### 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, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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.

### Terms & Abbreviations Used Below:

- **MCLG**-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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: 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.
- **TT**-Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **AL**-Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **MRDLG**-Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.
- **MRDL**-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
- **NA**: not applicable
- **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **pCi/L**: picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water
- **ug/L**: Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Contaminants(units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Chlorine (as C12)(ppm)	4	4	1.60	0.50 - 3.00	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes](ppb)	NA	80.0	93	68 - 107	2015	Yes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids](ppb)	NA	60.0	86	63 - 129		Yes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0143	NA	2015	No	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppm)	0	0.2	<0.015	NA	2014	No	Discharge from plastic/fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Chromium [total] (ppm)	0.1	0.1	.0016	NA	2012	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.4	NA	2010	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservations
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.289	NA	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead(ppb)	0	15	3	NA	2013	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate(ppm)	10	10	<0.08	N/A	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	<0.02	N/A	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium(ppm)	0.05	0.05	0.0025	NA	2012	No	Discharge from petroleum metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

**About our TTHM and HAA5 Violation:** This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing TTHM and HAA5 in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We are working closely with our Engineer and the State Health Department to resolve this issue. SCWA incurred violations for the four quarters in 2015.

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 Central Water Association, Inc. 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/safewater/lead>.

The Mississippi State Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601-576-7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

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 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/Centers for Disease Control (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.

South Central Water Association, Inc. works around the clock to provide top quality water to every customer. 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.