

NCWSA Surface Water to Tap

Have you ever had water that had a dissatisfactory color, odor or taste? You would wonder if it was safe to drink, wouldn't you? At NCWSA, we understand that you only expect the best water that is pleasing to sight and smell and guarded against pathogens. Two water sources supply water for two treatment facilities that produce a blended water for customers. Lake Varner, an 820-acre reservoir, is the source for Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility. Cornish Creek WTF is an up-flow clarification facility permitted for 25 MGD (Million Gallons per Day). Ninety-five percent of the water produced in 2014 by NCWSA came from Lark Varner. Williams St. WTF is a conventional plant capable of producing 4.0 MGD. Its source of water is the Alcovy River. Cornish Creek WTF pumps water from the Alcovy River to City Pond Reservoir where it gravity flows or is pumped to Williams St WTF. Contaminants and potential pollution sources in a watershed are identified in a source water assessment plan. A source water assessment plan for the Alcovy River watershed has been completed. The overall susceptibility of the water was rated medium. The greatest potential threat to source water quality is agricultural waste ponds and secondary paved roads. The recommendations from the plan will ensure that citizens served by NCWSA will be provided with the best quality water in the future.

About Your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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, and farming

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban 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 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration Agency regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791. 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, as well as some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791.



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A REFRESHING TOMORROW

2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY



NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

Cornish Creek WTF = Source of 96% of Water Produced in 2017

Williams Street WTF = Source of 4% of Water Produced in 2017

Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminants							
Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants							
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples < 0.3 NTU	0 100%	0.19 NTU	0.03 - 0.19 NTU	None	2017	Agriculture, Geology
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	2.0 ppm	1.1 - 2.0 ppm	None	2017	Human & Animal Waste
Organic Compounds							
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	*58.0 ppb	16.0 - 82.0 ppb	None	2017	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	*36.0 ppb	12.0 - 66.0 ppb	None	2017	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	2.53 ppb	1.03 - 2.53 ppm	None	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.29 ppm	0.48 - 1.29 ppm	None	2017	Additive/Naturally Occurring
Substance	Action Level	MCLG	Newton County Water System 90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Copper	1300 ppb	N/A	91 ppb	0	None	2017	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	N/A	1.1 ppb	0	None	2017	Household Piping

DEFINITIONS

MG: Million Gallons

MGD: Million Gallons per Day

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Turbidity: A measure of cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppm (mg/L): Parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is the equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

ppb (µg/L): Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is the equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

N/A: Not Applicable