

## Definitions You Need To Know

**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.

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter** – One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter** – One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millions per year (mrem/yr)** – Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Variances & Exemptions (V&E)** – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**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 (MCL)** – The “Maximum Allowed” 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 (MCLG)** – The “Goal” is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health.



## OUR DAILY WATER

### 2013 Annual Water Quality Report (Testing Performed January - December 2012)



## Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board

TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	No	2.5 +/- 0.9	PCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	0.102** (0 > AL)	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	0.41 - 1.02	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
2,4-D	No	ND - 6.30	Ppb	70	70	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Styrene	No	ND - 2.67	ppb	100	100	Discharge from rubber & plastic factories; leaching from landfills
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	WTP 30.5/ Distribution ND	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids)	No	WTP 13.7/ Distribution ND	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 for Microbiological, Nitrates, Radioactive Contaminants, Synthetic Organic Contaminants, Disinfection By-Products, and Volatile Organic Contaminants. All of these were performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule shown on the following page.

**As you can see by the table, our system had NO violations. We were 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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for your understanding. Please call our office if you have any questions.

#### Safe Drinking Water Act

##### What does this mean for you?

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. The purpose of the law is to assure that the nation's water supply systems serving the public meet the minimum national standards for the protection of public health.

The SDWA covers all public water systems with piped water for human consumption with at least 15 service connections or a system that regularly serves at least 25 individuals. The SDWA directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish national drinking water standards. These standards limit the amount of certain contaminants provided by public water. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. 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, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water 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 at 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 radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities.

**Oxford Water Works and Sewer Board is proud to report that we met or exceeded all Federal and State Standards for drinking water**



#### Lead and Copper Compliance

The most recent testing for lead and copper compliance within the distribution system was in 2010. This testing was done in accordance with applicable regulations. No lead or copper samples exceeded the action level. 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 Oxford Water Works and Sewer Board 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 other steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### Monitoring Schedule

Constituent Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2010
Lead/Copper	2010
Microbiological Contaminants	Current
Nitrates	2012
Radioactive Contaminants	2012
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides & herbicides)	2012
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2012
Disinfection By-Products	2012

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS			
Contaminant	MCL	Unit	Contaminant
Bacteriological			
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present or absent	o-Dichlorobenzene
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli	0	present or absent	p-Dichlorobenzene
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Nitrite
Radiological			Total Nitrate and Nitrite
Beta/Photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Selenium
Alpha emitters	15	pci/l	Thallium
Combined radium	5	pci/l	Organic Contaminants
Uranium	30	pci/l	2,4-D
Inorganic Chemicals			2,4,5-TP (Silvex)
Antimony	6	ppb	Acrylamide
Arsenic	10	ppb	Alcohol
Asbestos	7	MFL	Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]
Barium	2	ppm	Carburean
Beryllium	4	ppb	Chlordane
Cadmium	5	ppb	Isalgon
Chromium	100	ppm	Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Cyanide	200	ppb	Dinoseb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Diquat
Lead	AL=15.0	ppb	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]
Mercury	2	ppb	Chloramines
Nitrate	10	ppm	Chlorite
Endrin	100	ppb	HAAs [Total haloacetic acids]
Endrin	2	ppb	1,1-Dichloroethylene
Epichlorohydrin	TT		dis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Glyphosate	700	ppb	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Heptachlor	400	Nanograms/l	Dichloromethane
Heptachlor epoxide	200	Nanograms/l	5
Heptachlorobenzene	1	ppb	Ethylbenzene
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb	Ethylene dibromide
Lindane	200	Nanograms/l	Styrene
Methoxychlor	40	ppb	Tetrachloroethylene
Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb	Trichloroethylene
Picloram	500	ppb	THM [Total trihalomethanes]
Simazine	4	ppb	Toluene
Toxaphene	3	ppb	Vinyl Chloride
Benzene	5	ppb	Xylenes
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Chlorine
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppb	Bromate
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS			
1,1-Dichloropropene			Dieldrin
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane			Methochlor
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane			Metribuzin
1,1-Dichloroethane			N-Butylbenzene
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene			Naphthalene
1,2,3-Trichloropropane			N-Propylbenzene
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene			MTBE
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene			O-Chlorotoluene
1,3-Dichloropropane			p-Chlorotoluene
1,3-Dichloropropane			p-Isopropyltoluene
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene			Propachlor
2,2-Dichloropropane			Sec-Butylbenzene
3-Hydroxyacetofuran			Tert-Butylbenzene
Aldicarb			Trichlorofluoromethane
Aldicarb Sulfone			Chloroform
Aldicarb Sulfide			Hexachlorobutadiene
Aldrin			Chloromethane
			Dibromochloromethane
			Isopropylbenzene
			M-Dichlorobenzene
			Sec-Butylbenzene

#### OUR DAILY WATER

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our main office. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board  
600 Barry Street, Post Office Box 3663  
Oxford, Alabama 36203  
Phone: 256-831-5618  
Fax: 256-831-9063

Main Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday  
Water Board Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

General Manager.....Wayne Livingston  
Controller.....Patrick Prater  
Engineer.....Meredith Holzer