

## Definitions You Need To Know

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

**Coliform Absent (ca)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present

**Disinfection byproducts** - are formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter (i.e., decaying vegetation) present in the source water. Different disinfectants produce different types or amounts of disinfection byproducts. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes (THM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite

**Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE)** - a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

**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. MCLGs allow for margin of safety.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**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.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present

**Not Required (NR)** - laboratory analysis not required due to waiver granted by the Environmental Protection Agency for the State of Alabama.

**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 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 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.

**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

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

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

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

# OUR DAILY WATER

## Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board

### 2014 Annual Water Quality Report (Testing Performed January - December 2013)



Quality On Tap!

TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	No	1.0 +/- 0.6	PCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	0.134* (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	0.20 - 1.01	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
1,1-Dichloroethylene	No	ND - 0.62	ppb	7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene	No	ND - 3.58	ppb	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & other factories
THM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	WTP 14.3 - 27.9 Distribution ND	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids)	No	WTP 10.7 - 14.0 Distribution ND	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	No	ND - 16.8	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 for Inorganic, Lead & Copper, 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?

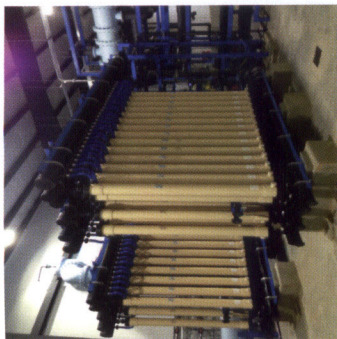
The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. The purpose of the law is to assure that the nation's water supply systems serving the public meet the minimum national standards for the protection of public health.

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 & Sewer Board is proud to report that we met or exceed all Federal and State Standards for drinking water during the reporting period.



#### Lead and Copper Compliance

The most recent testing for lead and copper compliance within the distribution system was in 2013. 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	2013
Lead/Copper	2013
Microbiological Contaminants	Current
Nitrates	2013
Radioactive Contaminants	2013
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides & herbicides)	2013
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2013
Disinfection By-Products	2013

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS			
Contaminant	MCL	Unit	Contaminant
<b>Bacteriological</b>			
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present or absent	o-Dichlorobenzene
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli	0	present or absent	p-Dichlorobenzene
Turbidity	NTU		1,2-Dichloroethane
			Nitrite
<b>Radiological</b>			Total Nitrate and Nitrite
Beta/Photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Selenium
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Thallium
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	<b>Organic Contaminants</b>
Uranium	30	pCi/l	2,4-D
			2,4,5-TP (Silvex)
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>			Acrylamide
Antimony	6	ppb	Alachlor
Arsenic	10	ppb	Benz(a)pyrene [PAHs]
Asbestos	7	MFL	Carbaryl
Berillium	2	ppm	Chlordane
Cadmium	4	ppb	Chlordane
Chromium	100	ppb	Dalapon
Copper	AL-1,3	ppm	Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate
Cyanide	200	ppb	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
Fluoride	4	ppm	Dinoseb
Lead	AL-5,0	ppb	Diquat
Mercury	2	ppb	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]
Nitrate	10	ppm	Chloramines
Endothal	100	ppb	Chlorite
Endrin	2	ppb	HAAs [Total haloacetic acids]
Epichlorohydrin	TT	ppb	1,1-Dichloroethylene
Glyphosate	700	ppb	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Heptachlor	400	Nanograms/l	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Heptachlor epoxide	200	Nanograms/l	Dichloromethane
Heptachlorobenzene	1	ppb	Ethylbenzene
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb	Ethylene dibromide
Lindane	200	Nanograms/l	Styrene
Methoxychlor	40	ppb	Tetrachloroethylene
Oxamyl [Vadate]	200	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
Oxamyl [Vadate]	200	PCBs	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb	Trichloroethylene
Picloram	500	ppb	THM [Total trihalomethanes]
Simazone	4	ppb	Toluene
Toxaphene	3	ppb	Vinyl Chloride
Xylenes	5	ppb	Xylenes
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Chlorine
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppb	Bromate
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS			
1,1-Dichloropropane			Naphthalene
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane			Dibromochloroethane
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane			Dibromomethane
1,1-Dichloroethane			Diamba
1,1,2-Trichloroethane			Dichlorodifluoromethane
1,2,3-Trichloropropane			Dieldrin
1,2,3-Trichloropropane			Hexachlorobutadiene
1,2,3-Trichloropropane			Isopropylbenzene
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene			M-Dichlorobenzene
1,3-Dichloropropane			Methomyl
1,3-Dichloropropane			MTBE
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene			Methylisobutylcarbazone
2,2-Dichloropropane			Methylisobutylcarbazone
3-Hydroxybutan-2-one			Methylisobutylcarbazone

## 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.

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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