

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 (DBPs) - 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 (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAAs), 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 (HAAs). 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.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) - yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site in the distribution system. The highest distribution site LRAA is reported in the Table of Detected Contaminants.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) - the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - Million fibers per liter is a measure of 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.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.

Not Reported (NR) - laboratory analysis, usually Secondary Contaminants, not reported by water system. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

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.

RAA - Running annual average

Standard Units (S.U.) - pH of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases and is affected by temperature and carbon dioxide gas. Water with less than 6.5 could be acidic, soft, and corrosive. A pH greater than 8.5 could indicate that the water is hard.

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

Variations & 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

2016 Annual Water Quality Report (Testing Performed January - December 2015)



TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	1.00-1.53	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity	No	0.016-0.026 100% < 0.5	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Alpha Emitters	No	2.5 +/- 0.9	PCI/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (customer tap)	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	0.30 - 1.02	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Trichloroethylene	No	ND - 2.92	ppb	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & other factories
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	WTP 10.8-26.4 Distribution ND	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAAs (Total Haloacetic Acids)	No	WTP 7.21- 17.6 Distribution ND	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	No	ND - 12.0	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Bromodichloromethane	No	ND - 5.09	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Chlorodibromomethane	No	ND - 2.01	ppb	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Secondary Contaminants						
Chloride	No	6.48	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Hardness	No	142	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
pH	No	8.15	S.U.	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	No	4.51	ppm	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sulfate	No	2.69	ppm	N/A	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Total Dissolved Solids	No	144	ppm	N/A	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff

* Figure shown is 90th percentile and # of sites above action level (1.3 ppm) = 0

2016 Annual Water Quality Report
Testing Performed January through December 2015

Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board

Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board is pleased to present to you this year’s 2016 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and service we deliver to you on a daily basis, and our constant goal being to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

BANK DRAFT IS AVAILABLE FROM OXFORD WATER!

Saves you: Time – Postage – Checks

Contact our office at 256-831-5618 for more information.

THE OXFORD WATER & SEWER SYSTEM INCLUDES:

- Water Mains in Service.....315 miles
- Sewer Mains in Service.....135 miles
- Water Storage Tanks.....5
- Water Treatment Plant.....1
- Water Storage Capacity.....5.4 Million Gallons
- Water Production Capacity.....12.0 Million Gallons Per Day
- Booster Pumping Stations.....8
- Public Fire Hydrants.....948
- Sewer Treatment Capacity.....4.5 Million Gallons Per Day
- Sewer Pumping Stations.....37
- Metered Connections.....9870

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Oxford’s Water Supply is classified as Groundwater. Groundwater classification means the water is pumped from below the surface of the ground.

Drinking water is supplied to customers of Oxford Water by five production wells that draw water from The Knox Group, Shady Dolomite Aquifer. Each well is approximately 300 feet deep and the water from each well meets all regulations without any treatment required; however, we do add some chlorine to protect the water in tanks and distribution lines. The Oxford Quarry also provides water to the Oxford system and is filtered using membranes at the Leon Smith Water Treatment Plant.

Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board is a member of American Water Works Association (AWWA), Alabama Rural Water Association (ARWA), the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), Alabama’s Water Environment Association (AWEA), and the Groundwater Foundation.

The Oxford Water Works routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water. We had tests performed for over 90 consti-

tuents and only 17 were at detectable levels. All monitoring and testing were performed according to Federal and State Laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 for Inorganic, Microbiological, Nitrates, Synthetic Organic Contaminants, Disinfection By-Products, and Volatile Organic Contaminants. All of these were performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule shown on

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 exceeded 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>.

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.

Monitoring Schedule

Constituent Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2015
Lead/Copper	2013
Microbiological Contaminants	Current
Nitrates	2015
Radioactive Contaminants	2014
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides & herbicides)	2015
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2015
Disinfection By-Products	2015

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	MCL	Unit	Contaminant	MCL	Unit
Bacteriological			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Total Coliform	<5%	present or absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Fecal Coliform & E.	0	present or absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT		Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb
Radiological			Dinoseb	7	ppb
Beta/Photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ppq
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Diquat	20	ppb
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endothal	100	ppb
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Endrin	2	ppb
Inorganic Chemicals			Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
Antimony	6	ppb	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Arsenic	10	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppb
Asbestos	7	MFL	Glyphosate	700	ppb
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor	400	ppb
Beryllium	4	ppb	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppb
Cadmium	5	ppb	Heptachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Lindane	200	ppb
Cyanide	200	ppb	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb
Lead	AL=15.0	ppb	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	0.5	ppb
Mercury	2	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	Picloram	500	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	Simazine	4	ppb
Selenium	0.05	ppm	Styrene	100	ppb
Thallium	0.002	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
Organic Contaminants			Toluene	1	ppm
2,4-D	70	ppb	Toxaphene	3	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	50	ppb
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07	ppm
Benzene	5	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Benzo(a)pyrene	200	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb
Chlordane	2	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts		
Dalapon	200	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Chloramines	4	ppm
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	60	ppb
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	THM [Total trihalomethanes]	80	ppb
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
1,1-Dichloropropene	Aldicarb	Chloroform	Metolachlor		
1,1,1,2-	Aldicarb Sulfone	Chloromethane	Metribuzin		
1,1,1,2-	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Dibromochloromethane	N-Butylbenzene		
1,1-Dichloroethane	Aldrin	Dibromomethane	Naphthalene		
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Bromobenzene	Dicamba	N-Propylbenzene		
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	Dichlorodifluoromethane	O-Chlorotoluene		
1,2,4-	Bromodichloromethane	Dieldrin	P-Chlorotoluene		
1,3-Dichloropropane	Bromoforn	Hexachlorobutadiene	P-Isopropyltoluene		
1,3-Dichloropropene	Bromomethane	Isopropylbenzene	Propachlor		
1,3,5-	Butachlor	M-Dichlorobenzene	Sec-Butylbenzene		
2,2-Dichloropropane	Carbaryl	Methomyl	Tert-Butylbenzene		
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Chloroethane	MTBE	Trichlorofluoromethane		

Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board
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Water Board Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m.
General Manager.....Wayne Livingston
Controller.....Patrick Prater
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