



# PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

## 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report PWSID# NC3076010

### **Is My Water Safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Where Does My Water Come From?**

Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority ('PTRWA') uses surface water from Randleman Regional Reservoir as its source of drinking water. Randleman Reservoir is a man-made reservoir at the confluence of Muddy Creek and the Deep River. The reservoir holds approximately 18.3 billion gallons of water and is capable of providing up to 48 million gallons of treated water a day. A 200 foot wide buffer is maintained around the reservoir to protect and enhance water quality.

### **Description of the Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation/sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) and sedimentation (where the heavy particles settle naturally out of the water) occur in a combined basin called a superpulsator. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, carbon and membrane filters that remove even smaller particles. Chlorine addition is the disinfection method used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to our partners. Fluoride is also added to the water at this stage to establish a baseline fluoride residual that provides additional dental health benefits. As the water is sent to the distribution system ammonia is added to create chloramines which help to maintain a stable disinfectant residual in the system.

## **Source Water Assessment and Its Availability**

The North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Public Water Supply Section, Source Water Assessment Program will be conducting an evaluation of our water source and determining relative susceptibility to potential contaminant sources. This assessment will help identify specific areas of potential contamination.

In North Carolina, stormwater runoff is the number one source of pollution to our surface water. Fertilizer and pesticide applications, automotive maintenance, littering, and improper disposal of pet waste are some of the ways we all contribute to water pollution.

As water from rain or melting snow flows over land, it collects harmful pollutants on its journey to the closest storm drain, drainage ditch or waterway. Though the amount of any particular pollutant might not seem like much, when multiplied by the size of a given community, it can have a major impact on the quality of our water. Proper disposal of waste and elimination of erosion are some of the best ways to protect your water source and ensure a safe environment.

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up your pets waste.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public wastewater system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil and antifreeze to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. The Piedmont Triad Water Quality Partnership ([www.piedmontwaterquality.org](http://www.piedmontwaterquality.org)) is a collaboration of seventeen local governments in the Piedmont Triad Region working together to educate residents about stormwater and water quality issues in the region and is an excellent resource for learning how you can help address pollution issues in our region.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people “Dump No Waste - Drains to River” or “Protect Your Water.” Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Why Are There Contaminants In My Drinking Water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses; 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Additional Information on Lead in Drinking Water**

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 building service lines and home plumbing. PTRWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in individual 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>.

As a wholesale water supplier, without retail customers, PTRWA does not conduct distribution system lead and copper monitoring; this monitoring is performed by the individual water suppliers through monitoring performed in each of their water distribution systems.

## **Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?**

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **To Become More Involved and For Answers To Questions?**

The PTRWA Board of Directors typically holds a routine meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, the public is encouraged to attend meetings to obtain additional information about your water supply. Questions and concerns may also be directed to the Authority's office at (336) 498-5510.

## **Variance and Exemptions**

We are not currently operating under any formal variances or exemptions.

# Water Quality Data Table

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 table below 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. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 of North Carolina 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. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

| <u>Contaminants</u>   | <u>MCLG or MRDLG</u> | <u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u> | <u>Your Water</u> | <u>Range</u> |      | <u>Sample Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u>  |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>   |                      |                         |                   |              |      |                    |                  |  |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)   |                      |                         |                   |              |      |                    |                  |  |
| Chloramine (ppm)  | 4                    | 4                       | 2.89              | 2.68         | 3.03 | 2014               | No               | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Chlorine (ppm)  | 4                    | 4                       | 3.39              | 3.02         | 3.56 | 2014               | No               | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |                      |                         |                   |              |      |                    |                  |  |
| Fluoride (ppm)  | 4                    | 4                       | 0.53              | 0.33         | 0.63 | 2014               | No               | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. |
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>   |                      |                         |                   |              |      |                    |                  |  |
| Turbidity (NTU)   | NA                   | 0.3                     | 100%              | NA           |      | 2014               | No               | Soil runoff  |
| 100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.096. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state. |                      |                         |                   |              |      |                    |                  |  |

| <u>Contaminants</u>              | <u>TT Violation</u> | <u>Compliance Method</u> | <u>Your Water (RAA Removal Ratio)</u> | <u>Range Monthly Removal Ratio</u> |             | <u>MCLG</u> | <u>TT</u> | <u>Typical Source</u>                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
|                                  |                     |                          |                                       | <u>Low</u>                         | <u>High</u> |             |           |                                      |
| Total Organic Carbon (% Removal) | No                  | Step 1                   | 1.38                                  | 1.23                               | 1.49        | 2014        | TT        | Naturally present in the environment |

# Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminant was monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

| <u>Contaminants</u>         | <u>MCLG<br/>or<br/>MRDLG</u> | <u>MCL<br/>or<br/>MRDL</u> | <u>Your<br/>Water</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u>   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) | 10                           | 10                         | ND                    | No               | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |

| <b>Unit Descriptions</b> |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Term</b>              | <b>Definition</b>   |
| mg/L                     | mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of   |
| ppm                      | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  |
| NTU                      | NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our |
| NA                       | NA: not applicable  |
| ND                       | ND: Not detected  |
| NR                       | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.   |

| <b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Term</b>                                 | <b>Definition</b>   |
| MCLG  | 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  |
| MCL   | 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   |
| TT  | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  |
| AL  | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.   |
| Variances and Exemptions                    | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain   |
| MRDLG                                       | 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 |
| MRDL  | 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.      |
| MNR   | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated  |
| MPL   | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level   |

**For more information please contact:**

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