



2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

04-67-035

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report which is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **If you have any questions concerning your water or this report, please contact Seth A. Brown at (910) 937-7520 or visit the ONWASA website at www.onwasa.com.** We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

What The EPA Wants You To Know

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. ONWASA 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 steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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. 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, or 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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

ONWASA utilizes groundwater wells located throughout Onslow County as its water source. Thirteen (13) wells draw from the Black Creek and Peedee Aquifers and require minimal treatment prior to use. The Hubert and Dixon treatment facilities are served from a total of twenty-four (24) wells that draw water from the Castle Hayne Aquifer.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for ONWASA was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

| Source Name | Susceptibility Rating | SWAP Report Date |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Well 1 | Lower | September 2020 |
| R2 | Moderate | September 2020 |
| Dixon 1 | Lower | September 2020 |
| Hubert 1 | Moderate | September 2020 |

The complete SWAP Assessment report for ONWASA may be viewed on the Web at: https://www.ncwater.org/SWAP_Reports/NC0467035_SWAP. Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this web site may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to swap@ncdenr.gov. Please indicate your system name (ONWASA), number (04-67-035), and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-707-9098. It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. ONWASA maintains a Wellhead Plan adopted in 2002 to help protect our drinking water source. Customers can view this plan on our web site at www.onwasa.com. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source in several ways, such as: disposing of chemicals properly; taking used motor oil to a recycling center; and, volunteering in your community to participate in group efforts to protect source waters. ONWASA is also involved in the community and is available to speak to civic groups, schools, youth organizations, and others to educate our consumers on Source Water Protection.

Violations that ONWASA Received in 2020

ONWASA is pleased to announce that during 2020 no violations of permit requirements were received.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Not-Applicable (N/A) – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or rule.

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - A measure of concentration; 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 (ug/L) - A measure of concentration; 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 (nanograms/L) - A measure of concentration; 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 (picograms/L) - A measure of concentration; one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - A measure of the radioactivity in a unit volume of water.

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

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

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) – 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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 microbial contaminants.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) - the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color) in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

ONWASA routinely monitors for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water, in accordance with Federal and State laws.

Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Contaminants

The tables that follow list all the drinking water contaminants that ONWASA sampled in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2020.** The EPA and the State allow for monitoring certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted.

2020 Analytical Results for Regulated Substances

Microbiological Group

| Substance | Violation Y/N | Your Water | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform Bacteria | N | 0.07% | 0 | 5% of monthly samples are positive. | Naturally present in the environment. |
| Fecal Coliform and E. Coli | N | 0 | 0 | A routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive. | Human and animal fecal waste. |

What the chart means: ONWASA samples 120 sites per month throughout the service area for bacteriological contaminants. One of the 1,440 routine samples taken in 2020 tested positive for Total Coliform Contamination. The repeat sample of this site tested negative. Total Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. None of the bacteriological samples were positive for fecal contamination. ONWASA draws these samples from sampling stations in the distribution system which allows us to sample in strategic areas. Although ONWASA does not sample at each individual residence, all areas of the system are represented in the sampling plan. ONWASA received no violation because 5% of the samples did not test positive for Total Coliforms Bacteria.

Inorganic Group

| Substance | Sample Date | Your Water in mg/l | No. of sites found above the AL | MCLG in mg/l | AL (mg/l) | Likely Source |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| Lead | July-Dec 2019 | <0.003 | 0 | 0 | AL=0.015 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems: erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper | July-Dec 2019 | 0.258 | 0 | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems: erosion of natural deposits. |

What the chart means: The sampling results shown are from the 2019 compliance period, which are the most recent results available. ONWASA's next sampling compliance period is July-Dec. 2022.

2020 Analytical Results (continued)

Inorganic Group

| Substance | Sample Date | MCL Violation | Your Water in mg/l | Range Low High | SMCL in mg/l | MCL in mg/l | Likely Source |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| Fluoride (Mg/L) | 4/13/2020 | N/A | 2.73 | 0.65 3.5 | 2.00 | 4.00 | Erosion of natural deposits/water additive which promotes strong teeth/ discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| | 11/09/2020 | N/A | 3.50 | | | | |
| Chromium (ppb) | 5/30/2017 | N/A | 0.021 | <0.020 0.021 | N/A | 0.10 | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits. |

Notice to the Public for Exceedance of Secondary MCL for Fluoride. Sampling results are from the 2020 compliance period. This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system [ONWASA] has a fluoride concentration of 3.5 mg/l. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride, but the utility is required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2.0 mg/l because of the possibility of a cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please contact Seth A. Brown of Onslow Water and Sewer Authority at 910-937-7520. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Fluoride is naturally occurring in all of ONWASA's water sources with the exception of the Dixon and Hubert Water Treatment Plants where it is added for dental benefits. This addition is well below the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) of 2.00 mg/l. The results shown in these tables represent the highest level detected of all the source water samples. All other Inorganics results, to include Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Cyanide, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Sulfate, and Thallium, were below the detection limit.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----|-------|--------------|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| Iron | 12/07/2020 | N/A | 0.36 | <0.011 0.36 | 0.3 | NA | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Manganese | 12/16/2020 | N/A | 0.085 | <0.010 0.285 | 0.05 | NA | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Sodium | 11/09/2020 | N/A | 233.0 | 38.1 233.0 | N/A | NA | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Chloride | 10/01/2020 | N/A | 85.5 | 3.76 85.5 | 250 | NA | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| pH | 3/10/2020 | N/A | 8.80 | 7.62 8.80 | 6.50 units to 8.50 units | NA | Natural dissolved gases and minerals |

2020 Analytical Results (continued)

Secondary Inorganics (continued)

What the chart means: Sampling results are from the 2020 compliance period. The next routine sampling event will occur in 2023. Secondary Inorganics are naturally occurring elements in the water supply that are regulated for aesthetic purposes rather than the health affects. The results in the table on the previous page are for compliance purposes, however ONWASA samples daily for iron, manganese and fluoride to insure water quality. These results represent the highest level detected of all the source water samples.

Disinfectant By-Products

| DBP Type / Location | TTHM Range Detected in mg/l | HAA5 Range Detected in mg/l | Average TTHM in mg/l | Average HAA5 in mg/l | MCL in mg/l | Likely Source |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 104 Manchester Ln. | 0.048-0.066 | 0.018-0.049 | 0.059 | 0.038 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| 23395 Hwy. 50 | 0.056-0.106 | 0.028-0.049 | 0.070 | 0.038 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| 900 Broadway | 0.060-0.084 | 0.021-0.058 | 0.066 | 0.042 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| 1012 Barkley Ct. | 0.025-0.034 | 0.013-0.023 | 0.028 | 0.017 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| 7561 New Bern Hwy. | 0.037-0.063 | 0.018-0.028 | 0.049 | 0.023 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| 2900 White Oak River Rd. | 0.036-0.058 | 0.014-0.030 | 0.044 | 0.022 | TTHM 0.080 HAA5 0.060 | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) By-product of drinking water chlorination. |

2020 Analytical Results (continued)

Disinfectant By-Products (continued)

What the chart means: Disinfection By-Products are substances that can form when water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes. In 2020 ONWASA sampled 6 sites every quarter and the ranges of detection are reported in the prior table. The maximum level reported for Total Trihalomethanes was below the MCL for that substance at all 6 sample stations in the system. ONWASA takes every precaution to minimize the levels of Disinfection By-Products in the distribution system, including placing automatic flushing devices at strategic points in the distribution system to pull fresh water into remote areas of the system where Trihalomethanes are most likely to occur. We also perform daily chlorine monitoring to maintain levels sufficient for disinfection while minimizing the creation of Disinfection By-Products. State mandates chlorine levels be maintained between 4.00 mg/l to 0.20 mg/l and ONWASA's average for the system is 1.04 mg/l. Through a regular flushing program, use of advanced membrane filtering and extra monitoring, ONWASA has lowered the TTHM levels below the MCL.

Other Constituents

| Compound | Sample Date | MCL Violation Y/N | Your Water | Range Low High | MCL in pCiL | Likely Source |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Gross Alpha | 5/14/2018 | N | 8.0 | <1.0 - 8.0 | 15.0 | Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation |

2020 sampling for Nitrates in all 15 water sources detected levels less than the reportable level. There were No Detections reported in all 15 source water Nitrite samples.

2020 sampling for 21 Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) found levels lower than the reportable level for all water sources. These are commonly referred to as No Detection. VOCs are usually found as chlorinated solvents and fuel components. They include: 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Xylenes, Dichloromethane, o-Dichlorobenzene, p-Dichlorobenzene, Vinyl chloride, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Carbon tetrachloride, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Trichloroethylene, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Tetrachloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Styrene.

ONWASA was not required to sample for Radiologicals in 2020. 2018 and 2019 Sampling found 11 of the 15 water sources to have No Detects for Gross Alpha, Uranium, Radium 226 and Radium 228. The reportable levels for Gross Alpha - 3.0 pCi/L, Uranium - 0.67 pCi/L, Gross Beta - 4.0 pCi/L, Radium 226 - 1.0 pCi/L and Radium 228 - 1.0 pCi/L. 3 Water sources showed a detect of Gross Alpha - 8.0 pCi/L, 1 Water Source showed a detect for Radium 226 - 1.9 pCi/L. The Allowable Limits are Gross Alpha - 15.0 pCi/L, Uranium - 20.1 pCi/L, Radium 226 - 3.0 pCi/L, Radium 228 - 2.0 pCi/L and Gross Beta - 50.0 pCi/L. Radiologicals are caused by the erosion of natural deposits.

ONWASA was required to sample for UCMR in 2020. In 2020 sampling for 7 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR) at 5 water sources resulted in No Detection for 1-butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-propen-1-ol, Germanium, Butylated Hydroxyanisole, o-Toluidine, Quinoline

2020 sampling for 26 Pesticides & Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) found levels lower than the reportable levels for all 15 water sources. These are commonly referred to as No Detection. SOC's are found as herbicides, pesticides and defoliant. They include: Endrin, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Toxaphene, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Oxamyl (vydate), Simazine, Di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Picloram, Diinoseb, Atrazine, Carbofuran, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Alachlor, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, 2,4-D, 2,4,5-TP(Silvex), Hexachlorobenzene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Pentachlorophenol, PCBs(as decachlorobiphenol), 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane(DBCP), Ethylene, Dibromide (EDB), Chlordane.

With growing concern over newly discovered contaminants such as Per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including GenX, ONWASA sampled all our water sources for the presence of these contaminants. **The analysis found levels lower than the reportable level for all water sources. These are commonly referred to as No Detection.**

2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT



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