



UNION BRIDGE

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2014

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. Our water source is **a well drilled in the Wakefield Marble geology located near Town Hall at the intersections of Whyte and Locust Streets.**

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Dawn Metcalf at 410 775 2711**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.**

The Town of Union Bridge routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2014. All drinking water, including bottled drinking 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.

TEST RESULTS (Unregulated)

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of contamination
Sodium	N	30.6	ppm			Naturally occurring
Chloroform	N	0.7	ppb			Disinfection by product
Dibromochloromethane	N	0.6	ppb			Disinfection by product

TEST RESULTS (Regulated)

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of contamination
Copper 12/12	N	0.25	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead 12/12	N	4	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	4.07	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks. Sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium 9/12	N	.033	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling waste, metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Chromium 9/12	N	.0057	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] Locational Running Annual Average	N	Avg 30.95 2014 Range 2.9 - 65.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Locational Running Annual Average	N	Avg 4.18 2014 Range 0 - 5.8	ppb	0	60	
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity	N	0.19	NTU	NA	0.30	Soil runoff
Radiological Contaminants						
Gross Alpha	N	3.1	PCI/L	0	15	Naturally occurring
Gross Beta	N	4.4	PCI/L	0	4	
Radium-226,228	N	1	PCI/L	0	5	

Results table definitions:

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 (nanograms/l) - 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) - 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) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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 - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife,

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

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.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead. 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 Town of Union Bridge 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 drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.eps.gov/safewater/lead>.

Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

We constantly monitor the water supply for various constituents. We have detected radon in the finished water supply at 10 picocuries per liter. Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other indoor activities. Compared to Radon entering the home through soil, Radon entering the home through tap water, will in most cases be a small source of Radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing Radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing Radon can also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about Radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue Radon removal if the radon level in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a Radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state Radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800.SOS.RADON).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the ground 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.

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency'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 undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, 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 and Prevention (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).

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 understanding. Please call our office if you have questions.