

# SECOND SOUTH CHEATHAM UTILITY DISTRICT

## Water Quality Report

### 2020

#### Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart, we only detected 10 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.



#### What is the source of my water?

Your water comes from the Harpeth River & Turnbull Creek, a surface water source. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants, and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supplies serving water to this system. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the water source. Our water system was rated as moderately susceptible to potential contamination. The Source Water Assessment can be viewed on line at [www.tn.gov/environment/water/water-supply-source-assessment.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/environment/water/water-supply-source-assessment.shtml) or call TDEC EAC at 1-888-891-8332, a copy of this assessment is also available for review by calling our Water Treatment Plant between 8:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., at 615-952-5088 and asking for Justin Hedgepath.

#### Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Justin Hedgepath at 615-952-5088.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

#### How can I get involved?

Our Water Utility Board normally meets on the last Wednesday of each month. The meetings are at 3:00 PM and are held at 505 Valley Drive. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

#### Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.



#### Other Information

We at Second South Cheatham Utility District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

#### Required Annual Notice

The Commissioners of the Second South Cheatham Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Cheatham County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners to the Cheatham County Mayor to fill a vacancy. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

#### 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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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 (800-426-4791)

# Water Quality Data

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
  - **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.
  - **MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
  - **MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.**
- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
  - BDL – Below Detection Limit.
  - Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as 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 - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000. pCi/L (picocuries per liter).
  - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
  - TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
  - Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
  - Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
  - ND Non Detect

Most all of the data presented in this table is from testing done between January and December of 2020.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	"0"		2020	Positive Samples	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	No	.15	.01 - .15	2020	NTU	N/A	TT 95% samples < .3 NTU	Soil runoff
Copper	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.115		2020	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	No	0.6	0.54-0.68	2020	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % = <.005 ND		2020	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	5.81		2020	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Trihalomethanes	No	47 AVG	17.6 - 80	2020	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	No	34.4 AVG	17.9 – 46.3	2020	ppb	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	No	2.10	1.06 – 3.9	2020	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Nitrate	No	0.571		2020	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon	No	.85 AVG	0.5 – 1.02	2020	ppm	NA	TT	We met the treatment technique for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in 2020

- 1- 100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.
- 2- During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.
- 3- No positive bacteriological sample was detected.

**Backflow Prevention/Cross Connection Program:** A cross connection is a connection that may contaminate your drinking water. Examples of some forms of cross connections are allowing a garden hose to be submerged in a swimming pool, bucket, drum, barrel, or any other container that contains a non-potable liquid. Always maintain at least a 12” air gap between the end of the hose and the surface of the container you are filling. For more information on cross-connection prevention and backflow prevention please call the Second South Cheatham Utility District at 615-952-3094. The Tennessee Division of Water Resource requires all public water systems in the state to operate an on-going program to protect the public water supply from contaminations from possible cross-connections.

“ While your drinking water meets EPA standards for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. 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.”

### (Source Drinking Water)

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:

-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 contaminant, 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.

-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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water must provide the same protection for public health.

### (Vulnerability of Some People to Contaminants)

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/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* at (800-426-4791).

### (New Lead & Copper Rule)

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.

Second South Cheatham U. D. 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 at (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### Second South Cheatham U.D. Testing for Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite which is found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although Cryptosporidium

Can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of our source water indicated the presence of cryptosporidium . No Cryptosporidium were detected in finished water samples. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks.

However, immune-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life threatening illness. Immune- compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection. For more information on Cryptosporidium contact the Safe Water Hotline at (800-426-4791)

### **Think before you flush!**

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee’s waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are over 340 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties, to find a convenient location please visit: <http://tdeonline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

