LCWSC Trust in Every Drop

Water Quality Report 2022

By
The Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission

Providing Safe Water for Laurens County

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

Regardless of the way you use water -- for drinking, watering the garden, or other household purposes -- you can count on safe water from the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (LCWSC).

That safety record is verified through periodic water quality testing performed under guidelines of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DHEC and EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water and provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of LCWSC Water

The LCWSC purchases a portion water from other water suppliers: Greenville Water and the City of Clinton Utilities Division. All suppliers use surface water sources.

Water from Greenville Water is drawn from three reservoirs --Table Rock Reservoir, North Saluda Reservoir and Lake Keowee. Water from the City of Clinton is drawn from the Enoree River and Duncan Creek located north of the City of Clinton. The SC DHEC has conducted source water assessments on all the above referenced surface water sources. The documents are available at https://scdhec.gov/environment/your-water-coast/source-water-protection or by calling (803) 898-4300.

The LCWSC during 2022 began operations of its Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility. Water from this facility is drawn from the upper portion of Lake Greenwood where the Reedy River and Saluda Rivers are combined.

Regulations for Safer 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 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.

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 can pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of particular risk of 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

If present, elevated lead levels 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 Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

If You Have Questions

The LCWSC operates from offices located at 3850 Highway 221 South in Laurens. The office can be contacted at 864-682-3250 during regular business hours. For those who must dial long distance to reach Laurens, dial 1-888-246-0408. The LCWSC's activities are governed by a board of commissioners. The commissioners meet in regular, open sessions on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:15 a.m. at the LCWSC office.

Water Quality Data

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in samples for the LCWSC distribution system during the 2022 calendar year. The minimum and maximum levels of each contaminant detected are given in the table under the heading "RANGE". The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Because the concentration of certain contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control permits the LCWSC to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year. Therefore, some data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Approximately 40 samples are collected each month to verify that disinfection levels are adequate throughout the system. Whenever coliforms are found, LCWSC will flush the distribution system in the affected area to increase disinfectant levels and prevent microbial growth. Coliform bacteria are naturally found in the environment and are used as an indicator of microbial activity and are not, themselves, harmful. None of the samples collected indicated the presence of Fecal Coliform bacteria.

Types of Contaminants

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 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, storm water run-off, and residential uses.

•**Organic chemical contaminants**, which include synthetic and volatile organics that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. Organic chemical contaminants can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off and septic systems.

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

Terms and Abbreviations

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 available treatment technology.

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 margin of safety.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 microbial contaminants.

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

ppm (Parts per million): This is the same as Milligrams per Liter, or one penny out of $10,000.

ppb (Parts per billion): This is the same as Micrograms per Liter, or one penny out of $10,000,000.

NA (Not Applicable): Does not apply.

ND (Not Detected): Not detected, or below detection limit.

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

2022 PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Parameter (Units of Measure)	MCL	MCLG	Max	Range	Average	Violation	Possible Sources
INORGANIC COMPOUNDS							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.76	0.60-0.74	N/A	N	Added during treatment to prevent tooth decay
Nitrate / Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	1.20	0.0-1.20	N/A	N	Erosion of natural deposits; fertilizer runoff
ORGANIC COMPOUNDS STAGE 2							
CONTAMINANTS (Unit of Measure)	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detect in Your Water**	**Range**	**Violation (Yes or No)**	**Sample Date**	**Possible Sources**
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	NA	60	19 (LRAA)	0-79.2	N	2022	Disinfection by-product
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs (ppb)	NA	80	25 (LRAA)	0-78.2	N	2022	Disinfection by-product
MICROBE							
Total Coliform Samples	0	5%	7.6%	0.0 – 7.6%	No ***	2022	Common in the environment
DISINFECTANT							
Parameter (Units Of Measure)	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detect in Your Water**	**Range**	**Violation (Yes or No)**	**Sample Date**	**Possible Sources**
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.89 (RAA)	0.05-1.99	N	2022	Added for disinfection

LEAD AND COPPER RULE BASED ON 2020 SAMPLES

Parameter	Unit	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile Value	Samples Sites Exceeding Action Level	Violation	Possible Sources
Lead	ppb	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.219	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

*** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment(s) was completed on 10/31/2022. We assessed our distribution system, sample sites, water sources, and storage. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed two of these actions. Distribution system chlorine residuals were increased, and the system was flushed.

The LCWSC was sampled for the UCMR4 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4) during 2019-2020. EPA uses the UCMR to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Every five years EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List. The SDWA Amendments of 1996 provide for:

- Monitoring no more than 30 contaminants every five years
- Monitoring only a representative sample of public water systems serving less than 10,000 people
- Storing analytical results in a National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)

Unregulated Contaminate Monitoring Rule 4						
Parameter	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Range**	Max	Violation
Manganese	ppb	50	NA	0.525-6.52	6.52	N
1-butanol	ppb	NA	NA	0.0-2.19	2.19	N
quinoline	ppb	NA	NA	0.0217-0.026	0.026	N
HAA5	ppb	NA	60	0.0-49.97	49.97	N
HAA6Br	Ppb	NA	NA	0.0-12.49	12.49	N
HAA9	ppb	NA	NA	0.0-57.28	57.28	N