

# **HB&TS Utility District**



**2016 Consumer Confidence Report**

# HB & TS Utility District Water Quality Report

## ***Is my drinking water safe?***

Yes. In 2016 tests were conducted for more than 57 compounds that might be found in drinking water. Your drinking water meets all of the EPA's health standards.

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

Your water comes from a surface water source, the Cumberland River or commonly known as Cheatham Lake (Harpeth Valley U.D.). 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 contaminants. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has prepared a Source Water Assessment for the water supplies serving this water system. The Assessment Susceptibility Ratings to potential contamination are as follows: Reasonably (high), moderately (moderate) or slightly (low). The ratings are based on geologic factors and human activities within the source water protection area of the water source. HB&TS's water sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of this report can be viewed online at [www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-source-water-assessment](http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-source-water-assessment) or you may contact TDEC at 1-888-891-8332 to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## ***Why are there compounds in my water?***

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of compounds; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. The presence of compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about compounds and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 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 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 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.

- 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 Dept. 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

## ***How can I get involved?***

Our Water Board meets at our office on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:00am. Our office is located at 505 Downs Boulevard, Franklin, Tennessee 37064. 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***

Due to all water containing dissolved compounds, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at H.B. & T.S. 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.

## ***Important Health Information***

Some people may be more vulnerable to compounds 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 also 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**For more information regarding your drinking water please contact Troy Watkins, Operations Manager, at 794-7796 x 104.**

**Este informe contiene información mu importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

## 2016 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 - maximum Contaminant Level or 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. 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.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- 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.
- MRDL: 'Maximum Residential Disinfection Level'- The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water
- MRDLG: 'Maximum Residential Disinfectant Goal'-The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from sampling performed from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	●Likely Source of Contamination
*Total Coliform Bacteria	Yes	Presence July 8 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> 2016	-	25 samples taken per month	-	<2 Positive Samples	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	●Bacteria naturally present in the environment serving as an indicator that harmful bacteria may be present
Total Organic Carbon <sup>1</sup>	No	1.67 MAX	1.26 - 1.67	2016	PPM	N/A	TT	●Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	No	.06 AVG	0.03 – 0.28	2016	NTU	N/A	TT	●Soil runoff
Copper <sup>3</sup>	No	90 <sup>th</sup> %=.12	-	6 / 2014	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	●Corrosion of household plumbing systems ●Erosion of natural deposit
Fluoride	No	.52	.42 - 0.93	2016	PPM	4.0	4.0	●Erosion of natural deposits ●Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead <sup>3</sup>	No	90 <sup>th</sup> %= 3	-	6 / 2014	PPB	15	AL=15	●Corrosion of household plumbing system ●Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	No	1.24 AVG	.22 – 1.5	2016	PPM	4.0 (MRDL)	4.0 (MRDLG)	●Water additive used to control microbes
Sodium	No	13.6	-	9/8/16	PPM	N/A	N/A	●Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	.31	-	10/11/16	PPM	10.0	10.0	●Soil runoff from fertilizer
TTHM (Total-Trihalomethanes)	No	57 AVG	33-88	4 QTLY. 2016	PPB	0	80	●By - product of drinking water chlorination
THAA (Total Haloacetic Acids)	No	27 AVG	0-35	4 QTLY. 2016	PPB	0	60	●By - product of drinking water chlorination
ALKALINITY	No	79.8	-	2016	PPM	N/A	N/A	●The capacity of water to neutralize acids

1. We met the Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon in 2016.
2. We met the Treatment Technique requirement for Turbidity in 2016 with 100% of monthly samples below the Turbidity limit of .03 NTU.
3. During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.
4. **Unregulated compounds:** EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated compound monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence of in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

-Some people that drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and an increased risk of getting cancer.

-Water testing is available from private testing labs for a fee. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

\*Regarding Total Coliform Violation: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potential harmful may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. On July 8<sup>th</sup> & July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 2 total samples of 25 samples taken were found to have a presence of Coliform Bacteria. No more than one positive sample per month is allowable, therefore a violation occurred for the month of July 2016. When these two samples were found to be positive, four samples were taken, both at and in the vicinity of each of the positive sites. All of these samples were found to be negative for total Coliform Bacteria.

To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

## HB&TS Utility District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

### 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 service lines and home plumbing. HB&TS Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components to the household beyond the meter. 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, where to have water tested, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Water Hardness

Believe it or not, 85% of the U.S. has hard water. The water in our district is categorized as slightly or moderately hard. Average sampling in 2016 showed a level of 100 PPM. (5.8 Grains per Gallon)

### Cryptosporidium

Sampling and analysis of the source water was conducted for cryptosporidium in 2016. Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite which is found in surface water throughout the United States. Although, Cryptosporidium can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Monitoring of our source water in 2016 indicated the presence of Cryptosporidium in 5 of 24 samples tested. However, no cryptosporidium was detected in finished water. Symptoms of infection include, nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at a greater risk of developing a severe life threatening illness. Such individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to prevent infection. For more information regarding Cryptosporidium, contact the Safe Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### HB&TS: Quality Water

This report was issued as a requirement of an amendment to the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. The 1998 amendment allows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require a Consumer Confidence Report every 12 months.

The goal of the EPA is to inform all customers about water quality issues in their area and to give customers any information needed to become involved in local water issues, if so desired. Although this is a new law, we have been testing our water for years and are pleased to report that, once again, our water passed the test with flying colors.

### Cross Connection Awareness

**HB&TS takes the safety of its water supply serious. Never cross connect the public's safe drinking water supply with an alternate source that could be contaminated with chemicals or bacteria.**

Water Wells possibly contaminated with e-coli, garden hoses or irrigation systems that come into contact with chemicals around your home and lawn are all considered to be **cross connections** when **connected** with the city's safe drinking water supply. Without the proper protection, a sudden drop of water pressure from the city's water supply due to a line break or nearby fire will create a backflow or backsiphonage of water to occur. Should you have an alternate water supply or source that contains chemicals or bacteria connected to the city's drinking water supply at this time, it will allow the chemicals or bacteria to go back into you and your neighbor's homes.

If you have a well, an irrigation system or use chemicals that come in contact with the city's safe drinking water you are required to install a **backflow prevention device** and have it tested annually to insure that it is in proper working condition.

A **backflow prevention device** creates a separation of your safe drinking water from an unsafe source. Insuring that your safe and reliable drinking water source remains just that, safe and reliable. (A typical cross connection device is pictured above.) If you have one of these devices already installed, insure that it is tested annually and that it is reported back to HB&TS for our record keeping.

**For more information regarding cross connections or to have a survey performed at your business or residence for potential cross connections please contact Erick Hargrove at: 615-794-7796 x 111 or [ehargrove@hbtsud.com](mailto:ehargrove@hbtsud.com)**

### HB&TS UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER SELECTION

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