

2006

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Sallisaw

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is surface water drawn from Brushy Lake.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that shows the vulnerability, MEDIUM for our system. Additionally more information such as potential sources of contamination are listed.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements.

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 **Paul Richards at 918-775-6241**. 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 second Monday of each month at 111 North Elm at 6:30 pm.

The City of Sallisaw 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, 2006. (Some of our data may be more than one year old because the state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less often than once per year.) 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.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

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) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - (mandatory language) The 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 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.

There are seventy-six regulated contaminants that community water systems are required to test for including microbiological, radioactive, inorganic, and volatile organic contaminants. We are exempt from testing for synthetic organic contaminants based upon a vulnerability assessment conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
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Microbiological Contaminants

1. Total Coliform Bacteria	N	1	N/A	1 positive	0	Naturally present in the environment
3. Turbidity (NTU) (maximum single measurement) (maximum monthly level)	N N	0.58 2.15%	N/A	TT = 1 NTU TT ≤ 0.3 NTU in 95% of monthly samples	N/A	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon % removal	N	37.5%	27.8 – 70	TT	N/A	Naturally present in the environment

Radioactive Contaminants

4. Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	N	1.45625 pCi/L	1.1 – 1.7 pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
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Inorganic Contaminants

8. Arsenic (ppm)	N	0.00071 ppm	.00071 - .00072 ppm	.01	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
14. Copper (ppm)	N	0.25 ppn	N/A	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.84 ppm	0.75 – 0.99 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead (ppb)	N	4.9 ppb	N/A	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
19. Nitrate (ppm) (as Nitrogen)	N	0.5 ppm	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
20. Nitrite (ppm) (as Nitrogen)	N	0.5 ppm	N/A	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N	27 ppb	13.05 – 32.36 ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
73. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	36 ppb	13.06 – 57.07 ppb	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Action Level – 90% of samples must be below this level.*

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

What does this mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we failed to monitor our yearly Nitrate-Nitrite test before the March 31st deadline. We sampled for it on April 19th. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, 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 before we treat it 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 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 and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.

**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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. 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.

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).