

2003
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Chowan County Water System
PWSID # 04-21-015
JUNE 7, 2004

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent 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 seven wells located in the Valhalla Community.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Chowan County Water Department at 252-482-7477**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please **come by the Water Department between 8:00 am & 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday**.

Chowan County Water System routinely monitors for contaminants 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, 2003. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes 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.

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) - 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.

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

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.

"<" - Means less than.

Re-sample- after one monthly positive sample we re-tested upstream and downstream and the samples came back absent.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants 2003						
Total Coliform Bacteria *	N	ND	Absent / Present	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Unregulated Volatile Organic Contaminants 2003						
Chloroform	N	19	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	N	1	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
B D Chloromethane	N	9	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
C D Chloromethane	N	10	ppb	n/a	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM *** [Total trihalomethanes]	N	43.5 (AVERAGE) RANGE = 36 - 51	ppb	0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper ** July 1999	N	0.437 RANGE .010-.697	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

* In 2003, we collected 10 samples per month.

** Based on 20 samples in July, 1999 no home tested exceeded the lead or copper action level.

*** Based on 4 samples in 2003.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're 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.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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.

MCL's 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.

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).

We at Chowan County Water Department work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap, said Ray Goodwin, Director. 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.