

Jones County Water

2015 Water Quality Report

Your Water is Safe to Drink

Last year we analyzed more than 2,241 samples testing for over 800 drinking water contaminants. We did not detect any contaminants.

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about the source of your water, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because we want you to be informed. For more information about your water call 478-743-3211.

Special Population Advisory

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/Center For Disease Control guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Lead-Specific Information

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. Jones County Water System 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 of 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Drinking Water Sources

Your water comes from nine (9) wells and is treated within four (4) plants; Largo Road, Griswoldville Road, Henderson Road and Masseyville Road Plants. Groundwater is supplied to these wells from the Cretaceous Sand and the Crystalline Rock aquifers. Chemicals are added to provide disinfection, corrosion control, fluoride to prevent dental

decay, and for pH adjustment. Source water assessment information may be obtained from the Jones County Water Office.

Public Participation Opportunities

Our Board of Commissioners meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. The Jones County News lists any additional meetings. Please call 478-986-6405 to be added to the Commissioners meeting agenda.

Contaminants in 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 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 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 & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *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 also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Water Quality Monitoring

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2014. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

- **AL:** Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **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.
- **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.
- **MFL:** million fibers per liter
- **mrem/year:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **N/A:** not applicable
- **nd:** not detectable at testing limit
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter -- (corresponds to one minute in two years)
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter --(corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years)
- **ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- **ppq:** parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter
- **TT:** Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Substance	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	<3% positive	0	0	Positive / Negative	Monthly	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300 ug/l	730	0 – 790	July 09, 2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	0.88	.55 - .99	Daily	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	15ug/l	ND	0 -5.1	March 03, 2015	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.62	0.45 -.99	June 02,2015	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	---	---	3.3	2.3-4.3	March 20, 2007	NO	Byproduct from chemical treatment; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppm)	---	---	ND	0 - 0.17	May 27, 2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants							
SS-2-BPA (ppb)	---	---	4.58	3.5-6.5	August 26, 2015	N/A	Disinfection byproducts
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	---	---	0	8.0-12.0	August 26, 2015	N/A	Disinfection byproducts
Dichlorobromomethane (ppb)	---	---	0	8.0-12.0	August 26, 2015	N/A	Disinfection byproducts
Decafluorobiphenyl SS (ppb)	---	---	8.03	8.0-12.0	August 26, 2015	N/A	Disinfection byproducts
Chloroform (ppb)	---	---	ND	8.0-12.0	August 26, 2015	N/A	Disinfection byproducts

*Regulations do not require monitoring for these contaminants in all states.