

**City of New Bern  
Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report  
2004**

**What is this report?**

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality for the City of New Bern, Public Water System ID # 04-25-010. Included are details about from where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

**Where does our water come from?**

The City of New Bern provides water for a population of more than twenty three thousand customers. We used an average of 3.98 million gallons of water per day in 2003. The total usage for 2003 was 1.45 billion gallons. The City also serves Cove City, Clarks, Taberna, Craven County Industrial Park, and the State rest area on Highway 70. Our water supply is pumped from the Black Creek Aquifer by five wells located in Cove City. The water is pumped to two ground storage tanks with a combined capacity of five million gallons. One tank stores one million gallons and the other tank has a four million gallon capacity. The City also has five elevated tanks. Three tanks store 500,000 gallons each. Each of the other two tanks has a 250,000 gallon capacity.

**How is the water treated?**

Chlorine is added in precise amounts through automatic feeders when the water is pumped from the wells. Chlorine destroys bacteria. This step is vital to ensuring the health of our community. Federal law requires the addition of fluoride to prevent tooth decay. Our water supply contains enough natural fluoride. No additional fluoride is needed.

**Where can you find more information?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Water & Sewer Department at (252) 636-4056 or the Water Laboratory at (252) 636-4170. If you want to learn more, attend any of the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen Meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom, 300 Pollock St.

### **What are contaminants?**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substance can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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. 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 Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) 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.

### **Terms & Abbreviations**

In our 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:

*Parts per million (ppm)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb)* - 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)* - is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

*Action Level (AL)* - is the concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

### **What are the special health concerns?**

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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **Conclusions**

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 our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding. 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. Please call our office if you have questions. The telephone number is (252) 636-4004 for David Muse, City Engineer.

### How is Our Water Supply Tested?

The City of New Bern routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and State Laws. The tables included in this report show the results of our monitoring for a period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

Table 1						
Contaminant (Not Detected)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants - Thirty samples analyzed monthly in 2003.						
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0 %	no range	0	No more than one sample per month may be positive for TC.	Naturally present in the environment.
Radioactive Contaminants -2003						
Gross Alpha	N	0	pCi/L	0	15	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Radium 226 & 228	N	0	pCi/L	0	5	
Inorganic Contaminants - 2003						
Asbestos	N	0	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains.
Copper	N	No samples above AL.	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

