



## NSA NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

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### For additional information:

City of Portsmouth,  
Water Quality Division  
(757) 539-2201 x232

Virginia Department of  
Health  
757-683-2000  
[http://www.vdh.state.va.us/  
drinkingwater/](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/drinkingwater/)

USEPA Safe Drinking  
Water Hotline  
800-426-4791  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic  
Environmental  
757-341-0482



*The source of NSA Norfolk Naval Shipyard's drinking water includes four surface lakes (Kilby, Meade, Cohoon, and Speight's Run) and five deep wells in the Middle Potomac Aquifer.*

Naval Support Activity Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NSA NNSY) is committed to providing you drinking water that is safe and reliable. NSA NNSY believes that providing you with accurate information about your water is the best way to assure that your water is safe.

This Consumer Confidence Report is a snapshot of the quality of your drinking water in 2014. The purpose of this annual report is to advise consumers of where their water comes from, provide water quality data, advance greater understanding of drinking water, and heighten awareness to conserve water resources.

### NSA NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD SOURCE WATER

NSA NNSY purchases finished water from the City of Portsmouth. Portsmouth's water supply comes from a system of four surface lakes (Kilby, Meade, Cohoon, and Speight's Run) and five deep wells in the Middle Potomac Aquifer. From these lakes and wells, the water is pumped through pipes to a water treatment facility which has the capacity to treat 33 million gallons of water each day and serves over 120,000 customers in Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk. Water treatment chemicals are added to the water causing small solid particles to clump together and sink to the bottom of a settling basin. The water is then filtered to remove bacteria, algae, and other impurities. Finally, the water is disinfected with chloramines to kill any remaining bacteria.

### ABOUT DRINKING WATER

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. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which may be naturally occurring, or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In addition to these contaminants, all lakes and streams contain algae, which are microscopic plants that can cause taste and odor problems in drinking water.

## ABOUT DRINKING WATER (continued)

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## WATER QUALITY DATA

The tables below list only those contaminants that were present in your drinking water at levels detectable by laboratory equipment. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables is from testing done in 2014. We are required to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change. Table 1 summarizes data from testing conducted by the City of Portsmouth at the treatment plant. Tables 2 and 3 summarize data from additional testing conducted by the Navy in the distribution system. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA sets the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as listed in the tables. The Regulated Substances Table and the Unregulated Substances Table are provided for your information and as required by the Consumer Confidence



### *Who needs to take special precautions?*

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 systems 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Kidney dialysis patients should consult with their health care providers or dialysis centers in order to take special precautions when using chloraminated water. Fish owners should be sure chloramines are removed from the water before it is used in aquariums or ponds. Many pet stores sell water conditioners for chloraminated water.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The primary source of Lead in drinking water is materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. NSA NNSY is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in buildings. 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 or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using water for drinking or cooking. If you have questions about your water, please contact NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Environmental at 757-341-0482. 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>.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the following pages shows the results of monitoring for 2014. In the tables and elsewhere in this report you may find many terms and abbreviations which you are not familiar. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

- **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. For lead and copper monitoring, compliance is based on the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. For chlorine and chloramines, a waterworks is in compliance with the MRDL when the running annual average of monthly averages of samples taken in the distribution system, computed quarterly, is less than or equal to the MRDL.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – A measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- **Non-detection (ND)** – Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - A measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** – A measurement of the amount of contaminant per unit of water. A part per million is one cent in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** – A measurement of the amount of contaminant per unit of water. A part per billion is like one cent in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – Non-enforceable standard that is established for aesthetic considerations
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Table 1. 2014 WATER QUALITY TABLE - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH (Water Treatment Plant Samples)**

Regulated Substances	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	0	15	2.2	NA	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.026	NA	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	0	50	5.0 <sup>1</sup>	NA	Yes	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/L	0	5	0.6 <sup>2</sup>	NA	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.19	0.63 -1.47	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrite/Nitrate	ppm	1	1	0.12	NA	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	2	1.03 -2.30	Yes	Natural in environment
Turbidity	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.07	0.03 - 0.07	Yes	Soil Run-off
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	NTU	NA	TT	100%	NA	Yes	Urban and soil runoff, waste discharge, sediments from erosion
*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity, by itself, is not harmful, but it can interfere with the disinfection of drinking water.							
Secondary and Unregulated Substances	Unit	SMCL	Amount Detected	Range	Likely Source		
Chloride	ppm	250	22	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
Corrosivity	Corrosivity units	Non-corrosive	-0.76	-1.63 to -0.19	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; Affected by temperature and other factors		
Sulfate	ppm	250	47	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes		
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	500	226	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
pH (acidity)	pH units	6.5-8.5	7.98 <sup>3</sup>	7 - 8	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
Sodium	ppm	n/a <sup>4</sup>	74.3	46.2 -89.5	Natural in environment; also from use of chemicals at water treatment plant		
Additional Information*	Unit	Average Level			Range		
Alkalinity	ppm	97			60 - 129		
Ammonia	ppm	0.41			0 - 0.9		
Calcium Hardness	ppm	19			15 - 27		
Conductivity @25C	umhos/cm	370			296 - 449		
Hardness	ppm	18.8			14 - 29		
Orthophosphate	ppm	0.11			NA		
Silica	ppm	4			NA		
*The substances listed above are not regulated by the EPA; however, this information is provided as a service to our customers							

<sup>1</sup>The MCL for Beta particles is 4 mrem/year; EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

<sup>2</sup>Combined Radium Footnote for City of Portsmouth 0.6 pCi/L is for Radium 226. Radium 228 is <0.9pCi/L. Less than 0.9 pCi/L was for Radium 228.

<sup>3</sup>This number is the highest monthly average of compliance samples for the calendar year.

<sup>4</sup>For physician-prescribed "no salt diets" a limit of 20 ppm is suggested.

**Table 2. 2014 WATER QUALITY TABLE - NSA NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD (Distribution System Samples)**

Microbiological Contaminants	Unit	MCL G	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform*	# of positive samples	0	More than 1 per month	1 <sup>5</sup>	0 - 1	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
*Routine monitoring in July and September of 2014 tested positive for Total Coliform. Extensive flushing was commenced to draw fresh water to the area and re-sampling results have since been negative for Total Coliform.							
Lead and Copper Monitoring	Unit	MCLG	AL	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (2012 Data)	ppb	0	15	2	ND - 4	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2012 Data)	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.253	0.008 – 0.368	Yes	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection By Products	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level <sup>6</sup>	Range (Individual Results)	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	33	0 – 56	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant by-product
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	NA	80	45	25 – 59	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant by-product
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	4 <sup>7</sup>	4 <sup>8</sup>	2.3	0.1 – 4.9	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) *	Unit	Average Level				Range	
Chromium 6	ppb	0.24				0.11 - 0.39	
Chromium (total)	ppb	0.28				0 - 0.4	
Molybdenum	ppb	1.69				1.4 - 2	
Strontium	ppb	40.3				35 - 44	
Vanadium	ppb	0.19				0 – 0.5	
Chlorate	ppb	298				0 – 600	
Bromochloromethane	ppb	0.01				0 – 0.1	

\*This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health.

**Table 3. 2014 WATER QUALITY TABLE - ST. JULIENS CREEK ANNEX (Distribution System Samples)**

Microbiological Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	# of positive samples	0	More than 1 per month	0 <sup>5</sup>	NA	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Lead and Copper Monitoring	Unit	MCLG	AL	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (2012 Data)	ppb	0	15	2	ND - 2	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2012 Data)	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.190	0.006 – 0.296	Yes	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection By Products	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level <sup>6</sup>	Range (Individual Results)	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	25	0 – 35	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant by-product
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	NA	80	55	14 – 40	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant by-product
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	4 <sup>7</sup>	4 <sup>8</sup>	1.6	0.02 – 3.8	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant

<sup>5</sup>This number represents the highest number of positive coliform samples collected in any one month; <sup>6</sup>This number is the highest running annual average of quarterly compliance samples for the 2014 calendar year; for Total Chlorine Residual, the highest running annual average was determined by calculating quarterly values which were based on monthly compliance samples; <sup>7</sup>MRDLG; <sup>8</sup>MRDL

## VIOLATIONS AND EXCEEDANCES

There were no drinking water violations to report for 2014.

## QUESTIONS

Contact NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Environmental staff at 757-341-0482.