

Crab Orchard Utility District Water Quality Report 2008

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photo courtesy of Vickie Houston

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you will see in the chart on the back, we only detected 10 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Otter Creek Impoundment. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment has prepared a Source Water Assessment Report for the untreated water sources. The Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To assure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geological factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Our rating is slightly susceptible. An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to the EPA can be viewed at www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Commissioner Selection

The Commissioners of Crab Orchard Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Cumberland County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners to the Cumberland County Mayor to fill a vacancy. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of Tennessee Department of Environment and pursuant Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at Crab Orchard Utility District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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.

What else should I know?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe 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*:

- 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- 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.
- Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe 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.

How can I learn More?

For more information about your drinking water, please contact Gerald Williams at 931-456-4292. Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water System Security

Following the events of Sept. 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 456-4292 or 484-6987.

**Quality
On Tap!**
Our Commitment  Our Profession

Our Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm., at the District office, located at 2089 E. 1st St., Crossville. Please feel free to attend and participate in these meetings.

2008 Testing Results for Crab Orchard Utility

Do I Need 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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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).

Contaminant	MCLG in CCR Units	MCL in CCR Units	Level found in CCR Units	Range of detections	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1 positive sample	0	0	No	2008	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹	N/A	TT (95% < .30 NTU)	0.063 Avg.	0.04-0.27	NO	2008	Soil runoff
Copper**	1.3	AL=1.3 ppm	90 th % 0.09		NO	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Total Organic Carbon*	N/A	TT	N/A	N/A	NO	2008	Naturally occurring in the environment
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	.90 ppm	.90-1.2	NO	2008	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth;
Chlorine	MRDLG 4 ppm	MRDL 4 ppm	2.2mg/l average	1.2-3.2	NO	2008	Disinfectant to control microbes
Lead**	0	AL= 15 ppb	11ppb	N/A	NO	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N/A	N/A	10.0ppm	N/A	NO	2008	N/A
Total Trihalomethanes	No	80ppb	44ppb	29-71ppb	NO	2008	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	60ppb	19ppb	10-28ppb	NO	2008	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

* We meet the treatment technique requirement for total organic carbon and turbidity.

** During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 2 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the lead action level and 0 out of 30 households sampled exceeded the copper action level

**ABOUT LEAD:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Crab Orchard Utility 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 for 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>

Cross Connections:

Over the next few months, the warm weather will bring people outdoors to work in their yards and gardens and begin getting swimming pools ready. Crab Orchard Utility would like to ensure that our customers are aware of the dangers associated with these activities. An ordinary garden hose is a common way to contaminate a water supply when the hose is submerged in any liquid or attached to certain devices used to spray pesticides or herbicides. This forms a cross connection. A cross connection is a situation where a possible source of contamination is directly linked to our public water system. If the end of your hose is connected to a chemical container, swimming pool or other contaminant during a water main break or fire, the substance can be siphoned back into the water system. This condition, known as back siphonage, could cause public health hazard. Devices are available to prevent this problem; however, the best solution is to always be careful how you use your water hose. Please help us provide a safe supply of water to all of our customers. Remember, never place your water hose in anything you would not want to drink.

Note:

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data though accurate may be more than one year old.

What does this chart mean?

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it

because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The EPA has two requirements: (1) That the maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU; and (2) That the level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the **90th Percentile:** 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU or Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measure of clarity

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level or AL: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

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 contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. **BDL:** Below Detectable Limit

Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids: compounds formed when natural organic compounds from decaying vegetation and soil react with chlorine