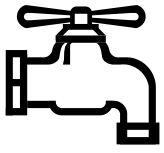

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Drexel
P.W.S.I.D. # 01-12-045
Date: June, 2020

Dear Water Customer,

The water distribution system is owned and operated by the Town of Drexel. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. We can be reached at 437-7421. The Town Council meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building unless otherwise posted. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Donald Barker, our Water/Sewer Supervisor. Every year we prepare a Consumer Confidence Report so that our customers can obtain important water quality data. We value the trust you place in us to provide you and your family with safe drinking water.

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. Our water supplier (City of Morganton) and Drexel routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Drexel tests monthly for coliform and quarterly for Trihalomethanes. Trihalomethanes were found to be 0.040 mg/l which is within the permitted limit of 0.080 mg/l. Coliform was not found to be present in the water. The testing ensures that the water meets and exceeds all current drinking water standards set by NCDENR and the EPA. The table included in this report shows the results of monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2019 as reported by the City of Morganton.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

(Mandatory Health Related Standards Established by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality)

Contaminate	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alkalinity (mg/L)	15.3	N/A	N/A	17.0 - 18.0	Erosion of Natural Minerals
Asbestos (MFL)	N/D	7	7	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	N/D	0	0.010	N/A	Natural Sources; Production Waste
Barium (ppm)	N/D	2.0	2.0	N/A	Metal Refineries; Natural Deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	N/D	0.004	0.004	N/A	Discharge from Coal Burning Facilities
Cadmium (ppb)	N/D	0.005	0.005	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Corrosion of Galvanized Pipes; Discharges by Refineries
Chlorine	1.7 mg/L	4.0	4.0	0.01-1.7	Disinfectant Used in Water Treatment
Chromium (ppb)	N/D	0.1	0.1	N/A	Discharge from Steel or Pulp Mills; Natural Minerals
Copper (ppm)	0.081 mg/L	1.3	A.L.=1.3		Erosion of Household Plumbing; Naturally Occurring
Cyanide (ppb)	N/D	0.2	0.2	N/A	Discharge from Steel, Plastic, or Fertilizer Factories
Fecal Coliforms	0	0	0	N/A	Human or Animal Fecal Waste
Fluoride (ppm)	0.53	4.0	4.0		Additive to support Strong Teeth; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Iron (ppb)	N/D	0.3	0.3		Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Lead (ppb)	N/D	0	A.L.=0.015		Corrosion of Household Plumbing; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese (mg/L)	N/D	0.05	0.05	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Mercury (ppb)	N/D	0.002	0.002	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Landfills; Discharges from Factories
Nitrate (ppm)	N/D	10	10	N/A	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	N/D	1	1	N/A	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Erosion of Natural Deposits
pH	7.6	N/A	N/A		Erosion of Natural Deposits
Selenium (ppb)	N/D	0.05	0.05	N/A	Discharge From Petroleum Refineries; Erosion from Natural Deposits
Sodium (mg/L)	7.1 mg/L	250	250	N/A	Soil Runoff
Thallium (ppb)	N/D	0.0005	0.002	N/A	Leaching from Ore-Producing Sites; Discharge from Electronics, Drug, or Glass Factories
Total Coliforms	0	0	>5% Month	N/A	Naturally Present in the Environment
Total Haloacetic Acids (mg/L)	0.018 RAA	N/A	0.060	0.020 - 0.0602	By-Product of Disinfection
Total Organic Carbons (mg/L) - Source	1.4	TT	N/A	1.6 - 2.7	Naturally Occurring Element
Total Organic Carbons (mg/L) - Treated	0.53	TT	N/A	N/D - 1.6	Naturally Occurring Element
Total Trihalomethanes (mg/L)	0.04 RAA	0	0.080	0.0229 - 0.1084	By-Product of Disinfection
Turbidity (NTU's)	0.122*	>0.2	0.3	0.022 - 0.097	Soil Runoff

***Turbidity Result was the highest recorded result from 2019. . The reading was taken on July 5, 2019. Average Turbidity was 0.069 NTU's for 2018.**

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants detected by the City of Morganton during the 2019 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, 2019. The State requires the City of Morganton to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants is 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 and abbreviations used above:

- **Primary Drinking Water Standard or PDWS:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that effect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency treatment requirements.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the NCDENR.
- **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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

- **NA:** not applicable
- **ND:** not detected
- **NS:** no standard
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- **mg/L:** milligrams per Liter
- **ppm:** parts per million
- **ppb:** parts per billion
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- **MFL:** Million Fibers per Liter
- **RAA:** running annual average

What EPA Wants You To Know

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. Town of Drexel 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.

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 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 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.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Summary
(Information provided by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources)

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment reports. The relative susceptibility rating of each source for the City of Morganton was determined by combining the contaminant rating and the vulnerability rating or the existing conditions of the watershed. The assessment findings are summarized in the table below. It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of higher does not imply poor water quality, only the systems' potential to become contaminated by potential contaminant sources in the assessment area. The complete SWAP Assessment report for Morganton may be viewed on the web at: http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/swap. Please note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this site may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. To obtain a printed copy send a written request to: Source Water Assessment Program–Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634 or email swap@ncmail.net.

Source Name	Inherent Vulnerability Rating	Containment Rating	Susceptibility Rating
Catawba River	Higher	Moderate	Higher

It is the customer's responsibility to repair any leaks past their water meter.
If you suspect a leak on the Town's side of the meter or in the street, please call 828-437-7421 or after hours 430-1794

Water Discoloration

Changes in water pressure, such as when water mains break or fire hydrants are used or flushed, can occasionally cause drinking water to be discolored. The discoloration is caused by sediments in pipes mixing with clear water. The sediments occur naturally from the oxidation of iron in pipes. While discolored water is ordinarily safe to drink, it is best to flush any discolored water from pipes by turning on all cold-water faucets in your home or business. Avoid turning on any hot-water faucets so the discolored water is not drawn into water heaters.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as per-sons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, per-sons 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Morganton's water comes from the Catawba River. The water is treated at the Catawba WTP via the addition of Poly-Aluminum Chloride for coagulation, Sodium Hypochlorite for disinfection, Poly-Phosphate for corrosion control, and Hydrofluorosilicic Acid to promote dental health.

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, in some cases, radioactive material. It also can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

We at the Town of Drexel work very hard 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. Thank you for taking your time to read this report. We appreciate you as a customer of our water system. Please call our office if you have questions Paper copies of this document will be available by request at the Town Hall.

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.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. These contaminants may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can 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 numerous sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Important Contact Information:
Town of Drexel Main Number: 437-7421, after hours emergency number is 430-1794
Visit our website at www.ci.drexel.nc.us
We value your feedback and any questions you may have about this report, please feel free to contact Donald Barker, Water Superintendent at 437-7421

Below you will find some water conservation tips. It is the customer's responsibility to repair any leaks past the water meter. Any leaks you may notice on the Town's side of the meter should be reported immediately to 437-7421 or our emergency number is 430-1794.

Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation.

Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.

Use plants that require less water.

Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.

Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine.

Wash only full loads.

Use a low flow showerhead.

Take shorter showers — five minutes or less is best.

Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth.

Turn off sink faucet while scrubbing dishes and pots.

Install new toilets that use less than 1.6 gallons per flush.

Put faucet aerators on sink faucets.

Us a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and walkways.