



# Letcher County Water & Sewer District Water Quality Report for year 2014

KY0670462

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Water - Essential for Life

This report is designed to inform the public about the quality of water and services provided on a daily basis. Our commitment is to provide our customers with a safe, clean, and reliable supply of drinking water. We want to assure that we will continue to monitor, improve, and protect the water system and deliver a high quality product. Water is the most indispensable product in every home and we ask everyone to be conservative and help us in our efforts to protect the water source and the water system.

We purchase water from the City of Whitesburg, Knott Co. Water & Sewer District and the City of Jenkins. All three suppliers treat surface water. The source of water for Whitesburg is the North Fork of the KY River; Carr Fork Lake for Knott County; and Jenkins Lake for the City of Jenkins. A source water assessment has been completed for these sources of water. The susceptibility of contamination for the Whitesburg treatment plant is high based upon recent fuel leaks which impacted water quality. The susceptibility rating for Carr Fork and Jenkins Lake is moderate. Activities which pose a threat to water quality includes; roads and bridges; railroad; mining activities, oil and gas wells, untreated sewage; and solid waste are all of concern. Under certain circumstances contaminants could be released that would pose challenges to water treatment, or even get into your drinking water. These activities, and how they are conducted, are of interest to the entire community because they potentially affect your health and the cost of treating your water. The complete Source Water Assessment Plans are available for review at the Kentucky River Area Development District office in Hazard, KY.

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 may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency'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, and may 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, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides, (stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential uses). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or mining activities).

In order 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

*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).*

**Some or all of these definitions may be found in this report:**

**Information About Lead:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - 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.  
**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.  
**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.  
**Below Detection Levels (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.  
**Not Applicable (N/A)** - does not apply.  
**Parts per million (ppm)** - or milligrams per liter, (mg/l). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.  
**Parts per billion (ppb)** - or micrograms per liter, (µg/L). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.  
**Parts per trillion (ppt)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.  
**Parts per quadrillion (ppq)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.  
**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.  
**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.  
**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.  
**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.  
**Variances & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.  
**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system shall follow.  
**Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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. Your local public 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 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>.

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**Spanish (Español)** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with administrative regulations in 401 KAR Chapter 8. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data in this table, though representative, may be more than one year old.

**A = Knott Co. Water & Sewer District B = City of Whitesburg C = City of Jenkins**

	Allowable Levels	Source	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
Turbidity (NTU) TT	No more than 1 NTU*	A=	0.175	100	No	Soil runoff
* Representative samples of filtered water	Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% monthly samples	B=	0.43	99	No	
		C=	0.08	100	No	

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Source	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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**Radioactive Contaminants**

Alpha emitters [4000] (pCi/L)	15	0	A= B=	0.37 0.9	0 to 0.9	2010 2011	No No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	A= B=	0.7 0.2	0 to 0.2	2010 2011	No No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	30	0	C=	1.5	1.5 to 1.5	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Arsenic [1005] (ppb)	10	N/A	B=	0.0034	0.0034 to 0.0034	2014	No	Natural erosion; runoff from orchards or glass and electronics production wastes
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	B=	0.032	0.032 to 0.032	2014	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	A= B= C=	0.82 0.8 0.3	0.82 to 0.8	2014 2014 2014	No No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nickel (ppm) (US EPA remanded MCL in February 1995.)	N/A	N/A	A= B=	0.0025	to 0.0025	2014	No	N/A
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	A= B= C=	0.39 0.4 0.36	0.39 to 0.4	2014 2014 2014	No No No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium [1045] (ppb)	50	50	B=	0.0011	0.0011 to 0.0011	2014	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries or mines; erosion of natural deposits

**Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors**

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (report level=lowest avg. range of monthly ratios)	TT*	N/A	A= B= C=	1.72 1.03 1.11	1.11 to 2.96	2014	No No No	Naturally present in environment.
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\*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.

**Letcher County Water & Sewer District**

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3		0.006 (90th percentile)	0.0012 to 0.007	2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
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**Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors**

Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4		0.98 (highest average)	0.63 to 1.56	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 1) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A		53 (system average)	14 to 70 (range of system sites)	2014	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A		57 (high site average)	57 to 57 (range of individual sites)	2014	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 1) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A		49 (system average)	20 to 63 (range of system sites)	2014	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A		56 (high site average)	56 to 56 (range of individual sites)	2014	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Our water system violated one or more drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 1/1/2014 - 3/31/2014 & 11/1/2014 - 11/30/2014 we did not monitor or test for Total Trihalomethane (TTHM), Haloacetic Acids (HAA), and Monthly Operating Report (MOR) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.*

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for [this contaminant/these contaminants] and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Taken	When samples Should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM	1 per quarter	1	1st qtr 2014	2/24/2014
HAA	1 per quarter	1	1st qtr 2014	2/24/2014

Report	Reporting Frequency	Report Due	Report Mailed	Report Received
MOR	Monthly	10th day of following month	12/8/2014	December 2014

What happened? Who is at risk? What is being done?

The TTHM and HAA samples were collected; however there was a conflict between our contract laboratory and the Division of Water (DOW) as to when the samples were uploaded to the drinking water database. We discussed the issue with the laboratory and DOW and there has not been any further problems submitting results. The MOR was mailed at the usual time, but was not post marked until 12/12/2014 and therefore was received after the deadline. We have started mailing the report earlier to avoid this problem in the future. There are no public health effects associated with these violations.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*