



2020 Water Quality Report Blackburn Water System

This **Annual Water Quality Report** has been developed to keep you informed about the ACSA's water quality. The Service Authority is committed to supplying safe water that meets or exceeds state and federal regulations and achieves the highest standards of customer satisfaction. Please take a few minutes to read this report.

About Your Water.....

We are proud to report that the water provided by ACSA to our Blackburn customers met all federal and state standards for drinking water for 2020.

This report includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Source Water Assessments

A source water assessment has been completed by the Virginia Department of Health. More specific information may be obtained by contacting the Augusta County Service Authority at 245-5670.

Did You Know?

About 1/4 of all bottled water actually comes from a municipal water supply! Save money and plastic waste by refilling reusable water bottles from your tap. Tap water costs about 2 cents per gallon, while the average cost of bottled water is about \$1.20 per gallon.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Sources of the Blackburn Water System's drinking water include groundwater from a spring and surface water from two reservoirs; Elkhorn and Staunton. The Service Authority purchases water from the City of Staunton for this system.

How Is Your Water Treated?

Water enters the Staunton Treatment Plant from the reservoirs or Gardner Springs. Treatment includes: (1) **Screening** - removes leaves, sticks, and other large debris; (2) **Prechlorination** - kills most disease-causing organisms; (3) **Flash Mix** - chemicals are added and mixed with raw water containing fine particles that will not readily settle or filter out; (4) **Flocculation** - gathers together fine, light particles to form larger particles to aid the settling and filtering processes; (5) **Sedimentation** - settles out large suspended particles; (6) **Filtration** - filters out remaining suspended particles; (7) **Postchlorination** - kills any remaining disease-causing organisms; and (8) **Fluoridation** - added to water for cavity prevention.

The treated water is distributed via an extensive underground piping system and is delivered to your home.

Water Saving Tip

A running toilet or dripping faucet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day - nearly 2/3 the amount of water the average family uses daily. Fixing leaks is an easy way to conserve water!



Who's Most Vulnerable?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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).
* Environmental Protection Agency
* Centers for Disease Control



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ACSA is committed to providing you with information about your water supply, because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

- ☛ ACSA (540) 245-5681 or www.acsawater.com with links to American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF)
- ☛ More information is available at waterdata.usgs.gov and www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/
- ☛ Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791
- ☛ Virginia State Health Department (Lexington) (540) 463-7136 www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/
- ☛ Monthly Board Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona. Meetings start at 1:30 p.m.

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This table lists only the regulated contaminants which had some level of detection in 2020. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.

| Treated Water Quality Roundup | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Substance | Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL*) | Highest Level Detected | Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLGs*) | Meets EPA Standards | Date Most Recent Testing Completed | Possible Sources |
| Regulated at the Treatment Plant | | | | | | |
| Beta Emitters** | 50 pCi/L | 2.8 pCi/L | 0 pCi/L | ✓ | February 2016 | Decay of natural and manmade deposits |
| Alpha Emitters** | 15 pCi/L | 2.4 pCi/L | 0 pCi/L | ✓ | February 2016 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Combined Radium** | 5 pCi/L | 0.93 pCi/L | 0 pCi/L | ✓ | February 2016 | |
| Turbidity *** | TT = 0.3 NTUs | Max.: 0.100 NTU 100%*** | N/A | ✓ | 2020, Daily | Soil Runoff |
| Fluoride | 4 ppm | Avg.: 0.6 ppm Range: 0.5 - 0.9 ppm | 4 ppm | ✓ | 2020, Daily | Water additive |
| Nitrate Plus Nitrite as Nitrogen | 10 ppm | 0.69 ppm | 10 ppm | ✓ | January 2020 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine | MRDL = 4 ppm | Avg.: 1.42 ppm Range: 0.5 - 1.7 ppm | MRDLG = 4 ppm | ✓ | 2020, Daily | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Barium | 2 ppm | 0.021 ppm | 2 ppm | ✓ | January 2020 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Regulated at the Customers' Tap - Next scheduled sampling date: July 2023 | | | | | | |
| Lead (90th Percentile) | 15 ppb Action Level (AL) | 2 ppb One of the 10 samples collected exceeded the AL | 0 ppb | ✓ | July 2020 | Customer plumbing and service connection |
| Copper (90th Percentile) | 1.3 ppm Action Level (AL) | 0.081 ppm None of the 10 samples collected exceeded the AL | 1.3 ppm | ✓ | July 2020 | |
| Regulated in the Distribution System | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | 80 ppb Avg. | Avg.: 44 ppb Range: 19.6 - 82.1 ppb | 0 ppb | ✓ | Quarterly, 2020 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acid (HAA) | 60 ppb Avg. | Avg.: 16 ppb Range: 11 - 25 ppb | 0 ppb | ✓ | Quarterly, 2020 | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria**** | No more than 1 positive sample per month | 1 positive sample | 0 | ✓ | April 2020 | Naturally present in the environment |
| <p>*Definitions:</p> <p>(AL) Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.</p> <p>(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level - Highest level of a contaminant that is allowed by EPA in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.</p> <p>(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.</p> <p>(MRDL) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - 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.</p> <p>(MRDLG) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.</p> <p>(NTU) Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.</p> <p>pCi/L - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.</p> <p>ppb - one part per billion, example is a single penny in \$10,000,000.</p> <p>ppm - one part per million, example is a single penny in \$10,000.</p> <p>(TT) Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.</p> | | | | | | |

**Data presented in this table are the most recent testing performed in accordance with federal and state regulations. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

*** Percent (%) represents the lowest monthly percentage samples which met the turbidity limits. Compliance for turbidity is based on the level being less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month. Turbidity has no known health effects; however, it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for bacterial growth.

****All repeat samples as well as other monthly samples were negative.

Additional Water Quality Parameters

| Parameter | Detected Level | Suggested Limit |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Alkalinity | 143 ppm | No Standard |
| Color | 10 Color Units (CU) | 15 CU |
| Hardness | 184 ppm * | No Standard |
| Sodium | 1.84 ppm | No Standard |
| Manganese | <0.01 ppm | 0.05 ppm |
| Iron | <0.01 ppm | 0.3 ppm |

*This water is considered hard.
(equivalent to 10.8 grains per gallon)

Substances Expected To Be In 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 land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can be polluted by animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbiological 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 runoff, industrial or domestic waste water 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.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Virginia State Health Department (540-463-7136).



Matt Lough, Water Plant Operator IV



Lead Contaminants

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. The Augusta County Service Authority 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 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature 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 to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.