

Red Boiling Springs Water Quality Report for 2008

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'll see in the chart on the back, we detected only a few of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water, comes from the McCellan Springs and from Sabins Spring. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water to this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure 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 geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Red Boiling Springs sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

A wellhead protection plan is available for your review by contacting Brian Long at the City of Red Boiling Springs between 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. weekdays.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

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).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Red Boiling Springs City Hall at 615-699-2011.

How can I get involved?

Our City Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm City Hall . Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

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.

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).

Lead 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. The Red Boiling Springs Water Dept. 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>

Water System Security

Following the events of September 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 615-699-2011.

Water Quality Data

2008

What does this chart mean?

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. 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.

Contaminant	MCLG in CCR units	MCL in CCR Units	Level found	Range of detections	Violation Y / N	Date of sample	Typical source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	> 1 Positive samples	0	0	No	2008	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	n/a	TT (95% < .3 NTU)	0.06 Avg	.02 – 0.25 NTU	No	2008	Soil run-off
Copper *	1.3	AL = 1.3 ppm	90 th % = .26 ppm		No	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead *	0	AL=15 ppb	90 th % = 3.1 ppb		No	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	1.5 ppm		No	2008	Water additive for strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	n/a	n/a	2.25 ppm		No	2008	N/A
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes	0	80 ppb	3.0 ppb Avg	2.9-3.0	No	2008	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HaloAceticAcids	0	60 ppb	2.5 ppb Avg	0.0-2.5	No	2008	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.46 avg	1.0-3.0	No	2008	Drinking water disinfectant
Total Organic Carbons **	N/A	N/A	N/A		No	2008	Naturally present in the environment

*0 out of 20 sites sampled had a level exceeding the lead or copper action level.

** The Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon were met in 2008.

Abbreviations: PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per liter ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter. N/A: not applicable NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water, AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. TT: Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.