

# City of Clarksville

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For Monitoring Period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

### IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

Absolutely! The City of Clarksville Water Treatment Plant is proud to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The water is tested and checked continuously each day to make sure it is safe. Thousands of tests are performed each month on the water that leaves the treatment plant, as well as the water that travels through the distribution system to your homes, businesses, and industries.

As you will note from the chart in this brochure our system did not violate any EPA or state regulations for the monitoring period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Although monitoring detected the presence of contaminants in small quantities, they tested well below the acceptable levels established by the EPA.

### WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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. Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Cumberland River. 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, or wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) report to EPA can be viewed online at the following web address [http://www.tn.gov/environment/dws/dwass\\_ess.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/environment/dws/dwass_ess.shtml) or you may contact the Clarksville Water Treatment Plant to obtain copies of specific assessments.

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. TDEC has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving our 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 (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Clarksville Water Treatment Plant source is rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

### 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and TDEC 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. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about the contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

### FACTS ABOUT 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. Clarksville Gas and Water 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, 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>.

### 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. We want you to know we take great pride in our water quality and treatment facility. We adhere to all applicable rules, regulations and guidelines in the water industry.

### OTHER INFORMATION

All water contains dissolved contaminants. So, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration or white deposits. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at the Clarksville Water Department 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.

### 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 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791). *Cryptosporidium* is a microbial parasite, which is found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although *Cryptosporidium* can be removed by filtration, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of our source water indicated the presence of *Cryptosporidium* in 3 out of 6

samples tested in 2009. No *cryptosporidium* were detected in finished water samples. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life threatening illness. Immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infection.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Our city council meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers at 108 Public Square.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Phillip Whittinghill, Water Plant Superintendent at 931-553-2440.

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*



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Water Treatment Plant  
P.O. Box 387  
Clarksville, Tennessee 37041-0387  
Ph. 931.553.2440  
[www.clarksvillegw.com](http://www.clarksvillegw.com)

Mayor  
**The Honorable Kim McMillan**

General Manager  
**Pat Hickey**

Water/Wastewater Operations Manager  
**Chris Lambert**

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent  
**Phillip Whittinghill**

## 2012 WATER QUALITY DATA

### DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Levels, or 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.

**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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level means a level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal, or 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.

**RAA:** Running Annual Average is the average of four consecutive quarters. Used in determining compliance for the TTHM and HAA5.

Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contaminants.

**AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Parts per million (ppm)** or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as 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 - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

*Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between January and December of 2012, except in the case of substances for which annual testing is not required.*

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Year Sampled	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	<1%	NA	2012	Presence/Absence	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E.coli	N	0	NA	NA	NA	0	A routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E.coli positive	Human and animal fecal waste
* Turbidity	N	0.19	0.03 - 0.19	2012	NTU	NA	TT 95%<0.30	Soil runoff
Copper	N	0.11 ppm 90th percentile	<0.0046-0.49 0 of 50 Samples Above AL	2012	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	N	0.81	0.00 - 0.81	2012	ppm	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	<1 ppb 90th percentile	<1 - 24 1 of 50 Samples Above AL	2012	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	7.4	NA	2012	ppm	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Nitrate	N	0.41	NA	2012	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
** TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	N	37***	18 - 102	2012	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids)	N	25***	13 - 57	2012	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
**** TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	N	****	NA	2012	NA	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	N	5.0	0.0 - 5.0	2012	ppm	MRDLG 4.0	MRDL=4.0	Chlorination

\* We met the treatment technique for turbidity with 95% or more of monthly samples below the turbidity limit of 0.30 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

\*\* Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

\*\*\* Running annual average (RAA) during 2012 for TTHM and HAA5.

\*\*\*\* We met the treatment technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon in 2012.



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Monitoring Period  
January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Clarksville Gas and Water Department  
2215 Madison Street · Clarksville, TN 37043