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 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.

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, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) prescribe strict 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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. The amounts of these contaminants are measured by DHEC and are reported in the table on the back of this page. The few contaminants that were detected in our water are present at very low concentrations and in all cases are much less than the amounts considered unsafe by the EPA.

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 pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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 at (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 at (800) 426-4791.

Water leaving the treatment plant is tested every day for the presence of coliform bacteria. Each month, approximately 120 samples from the distribution system are also tested. During 2017, the coliform bacteria samples were found to be less than the maximum contaminant level as per SC DHEC regulations.

Drinking water is tested every day for the presence of undissolved particles. Tiny particles may provide hiding places for bacteria or other micro-organisms. These particles might make the water appear cloudy or muddy. The amount of particles in a water sample is expressed as turbidity. Turbidity of less than 0.3 Turbidity Units (NTU) in 95% of the samples tested is considered acceptable by the EPA. In 2017, the 95th percentile for turbidity in samples tested was 0.100 Turbidity Units (NTU).

Our goal is to remove or destroy any organism that is considered harmful to human health. We do this using disinfectants called chloramine and chlorine as well as a very efficient filtration system. The system is monitored 24 hours per day for turbidity and particle counts using modern electronic laser detection equipment. Filters are taken offline and washed to restore efficiency wherever turbidity or particle counts reach predetermined levels.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
**LEAD INFORMATION**

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. We 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 on the Internet at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**WATER QUALITY TABLE FOR BULL CREEK SWTP**

**ANALYSES FOR 2017***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Date Sampled</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Detected Levels (Range or Single Analysis)</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Most Likely Source of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULATED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Organic Carbon</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>Range: 53.7 - 74.5% Average: 66.5%</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>Leaching from vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>&lt;0.3</td>
<td>Range: 0.010 - 0.316 NTU 95th Percentile: 100 NTU</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>Soil runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Alpha Excluding Radium and Uranium</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15 pCi/L</td>
<td>Range: ND - 0.080 pCi/L Average: 0.40 pCi/L</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Radium 226/228</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5 pCi/L</td>
<td>Range: ND - 0.080 pCi/L Average: 0.238 pCi/L</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.0 ppm</td>
<td>Range: 0.52 - 1.4 ppm Average: 0.96 ppm</td>
<td>4.0 ppm</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer use; Leaching from vegetation; Dilution of deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10.0 ppm</td>
<td>Range: ND - 0.46 ppm Average: 0.29 ppm</td>
<td>10.0 ppm</td>
<td>Runoff from agricultural land; Leaching from septic tanks; Leaching from vegetation; Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULATED AT THE CUSTOMER’S TAP</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.0 ppm (AL)</td>
<td>Range: 0.0036 - 0.43 ppm 90th Percentile: 0.074 ppm</td>
<td>1.3 ppm</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15 ppb (AL)</td>
<td>Range: ND - 8.2 ppb 90th Percentile: 0.52 ppb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULATED AT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloramines</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4 ppm (MRDL)</td>
<td>Range: 2.00 - 3.54 ppm Average: 3.18 ppm</td>
<td>4 ppm (MRDLG)</td>
<td>Water additive used to control microbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria</td>
<td></td>
<td>5% of monthly samples are positive</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5% of monthly samples are positive</td>
<td>Naturally present within the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>LRAA: 85 ppb</td>
<td>Range: 7.49 - 51.72 ppb LRAA: 36.62 ppb</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Halocarboxylic Acids (HACs)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>LRAA: 60 ppb</td>
<td>Range: 0 - 62.96 ppb LRAA: 42.55 ppb</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some analyses are not performed every year. The most recent analysis performed will be the one reported in that instance.*

The public is invited to attend any of the monthly Board of Directors’ meetings scheduled for the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at our Administrative Office Building off Jackson Bluff Road. Please visit our website for additional information at [www.grswa.com](http://www.grswa.com).

**THE SOURCE OF YOUR WATER**

The Great Pee Dee watershed is the source of our fresh surface water. Originating in North Carolina, it includes waters from Lake Tinley, Blythewood Falls Lake, Lumber River, Little Pee Dee River, Great Pee Dee River, Little Robinson, Black Creek, and Lynches River. Fresh surface water is pumped from Bull Creek, a branch of the Pee Dee River. Bull Creek lies a few miles north of the intersection with the Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers. All the rivers combine to flow through Winyah Bay into the Atlantic Ocean.

**WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS**

Are you interested in learning more about the water treatment process, water quality or participating in the decision making process? For general questions please contact our Customer Service Department at (843) 443-8202. For general water quality information call (843) 443-8200. For detailed water quality data and technical questions, please call GSWA at (843) 443-8204.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**