

# Louisa Water Department Water Quality Report 2018

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215 North Main Cross, Louisa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, monthly at 6PM

Louisa Water Department treats surface water from the Big Sandy River. An analysis of the system's susceptibility to contamination yields an overall moderate ranking. Of the 206 potential contaminant sites, within the protection areas of the intake, 57 received a high rating, 122 received a medium rating, and 27 received a low risk rating. Those ranked high include land used for row crops, bridges and culverts, major roadways, and oil and gas activities. Agricultural activity in this watershed is negligible and, therefore, the use of pesticides and herbicides and the danger of runoff contamination is greatly reduced. The complete Source Water Assessment is available for review during normal business hours at the Louisa Water Department.

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).

## Information About Lead:

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>.

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

**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, ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). 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.

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. Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office during business hours.

**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.**

	Allowable Levels	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
Turbidity (NTU) TT * Representative samples of filtered water	No more than 1 NTU* Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of monthly samples	0.79	96	No	Soil runoff

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results Louisa Water Department**

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

Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.045	0.045 to 0.045	May-18	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.182 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.007 to 0.556	Aug-18	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	1.02	1.02 to 1.02	May-18	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead [1030] (ppb) sites exceeding action level 1	AL = 15	0	3 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0 to 16	Aug-18	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	0.21	0.21 to 0.21	Aug-18	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium [1045] (ppb)	50	50	0.5	0.5 to 0.5	May-18	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries or mines; erosion of natural deposits

**Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors**

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (measured as ppm, but reported as a ratio)	TT*	N/A	1.39 (lowest average)	1.00 to 2.08 (monthly ratios)	2018	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.

Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.88 (highest average)	0.2 to 1.45	2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	20 (high site average)	11 to 24 (range of individual sites)	2018	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	58 (high site average)	15.2 to 111.9 (range of individual sites)	2018	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Other Contaminants**

**Source Water Contaminants (untreated water)**

Cryptosporidium [oocysts/L]	0	TT (99% removal)	1 (positive samples)	9 (no. of samples)	2018	See note below	Human and animal fecal waste
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We are required to monitor the source of your drinking water for Cryptosporidium in order to determine whether treatment at the water treatment plant is sufficient to adequately remove Cryptosporidium from your drinking water. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water. Cryptosporidium was detected in 1 sample of 9 collected from the raw water source for our water system. It was not detected in the finished water. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Secondary Contaminant	Maximum Allowable Level	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample
Chloride	250 mg/l	36.1	36.1 to 36.1	Mar-18
Corrosivity	Noncorrosive	-1.68	-1.68 to -1.68	Mar-18
Fluoride	2.0 mg/l	0.9	0.9 to 0.9	Mar-18
pH	6.5 to 8.5	6.88	6.88 to 6.88	Mar-18
Sulfate	250 mg/l	130.1	130.1 to 130.1	Mar-18
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/l	312	312 to 312	Mar-18

Secondary contaminants do not have a direct impact on the health of consumers and are not required in the Consumer Confidence Report. They are being included to provide additional information about the quality of the water.

### Violations

Last year we inadvertently misreported the concentration level for Barium as 0.058ppm and it should have been 0.038ppm. Our contract laboratory revised our analytical report but failed to inform us of the changes until after the CCR was published. Our contract laboratory is making efforts to ensure us that this does not happen again in the future.

Violation 2018-9631434

Our water system recently failed to comply with a required testing procedure. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

*\*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 January 2018, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Total Coliforms, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.\**

We are required to submit nine samples every month to be analyzed for Total Coliforms. In January 2018, we only submitted eight of those samples. We returned to compliance the following month by submitting all of our required samples for testing.

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

For more information, please contact Jesse Meek at 606-638-4500 or 215 North Main Cross, Louisa, KY 41230.

*\*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.\**

**This report will not be mailed unless requested. Contact our office if you would like a copy mailed to you.**