

# JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER & SEWER COMMISSION'S WATER QUALITY REPORT 2013

System Number : 3220003 • Pelion System Number : 3210010



## JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER & SEWER COMMISSION'S WATER CONTINUES TO MEET WATER QUALITY

The Joint Municipal Water & Sewer Commission is diligently committed to provide the highest quality of drinking water to the residents in our service area. The Environmental Protection Agency and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have established standards for drinking water. These standards were designed to protect the consumer from bacteria and water borne illnesses. This report reflects on the Commission's commitment and represents a summary of the drinking water quality during the year 2013. Should you have questions concerning this report please call 803-359-8373.



**JMWSC's water meets all standards set by DHEC and EPA.**



## **WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?**

The Commission draws water from two connections with the City of West Columbia. Both connection points are supplied by the surface water treatment plant located on Old Cherokee Road, which uses Lake Murray for its water source and has the capacity to produce twenty-two million gallons per day, of which the Commission has acquired approximately eleven million gallons per day of the total capacity.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substance that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. 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 (Centers for Disease Control) 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).

## **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

If you are interested in learning more about our organization or the quality of water, please contact our office to see what opportunities are available. Questions about water quality can be answered by calling the Water Department at (803) 359-8373. The Commissioners hold regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. These meetings are conducted at our offices located at 2546 Two Notch Road, and begin at 5:30pm. The public is welcome to attend.

## **DOES OUR WATER SYSTEM MEET OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OUR OPERATIONS?**

DHEC requires us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety for our consumers. We have always met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay strict attention to all the rules.

## **IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?**

Water supplied by the Commission not only meets, but exceeds all standards set forth by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Safe Drinking Water Act standards are set to ensure that your tap water is safe. For most people, the use of a water filter is not necessary to ensure water safety. People who have medical conditions that might put them at special risk should discuss the need for a water filter with their doctors.

# **An H<sub>2</sub>O Lesson : Flushing**

It's a good practice to flush your own water distribution line and household plumbing if you have not used your water for an extended period of time, such as when returning from vacation. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing, the more lead it may contain. If lead is a problem, we recommend you let the water run from the tap for thirty seconds before using it for drinking or cooking anytime the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. Ask your plumber if you need to flush more often because your household plumbing may contain sources of lead. To flush, let the cold water run from the tap until the water gets noticeably colder, usually this will take about 30 seconds. If you live a considerable distance from the water source, you may need to let the water run longer.

## REGULATED DETECTIONS

| Contaminant                         | MCLG     | MCL         | Highest Detected Level           | Typical Source  | Sample Period |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Nitrate</b>                      | 10 mg/L  | 10          | 0.24<br>Range = 0.042-0.24       | Runoff from fertilizer use  | 2013          |
| <b>Fluoride</b>                     | 4 mg/L   | 40          | 1.60<br>Range = 0.72-1.6         | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth | 2013          |
| <b>Copper</b>                       | 1.3 mg/L | AL=1.3      | 90% = 0.043                      | Corrosion of household plumbing system                              |               |
| Lake Murray Plant                   |          |             | 0.043 ppm                        |   | 2012          |
| JMWSC                               |          |             | 0.028 ppm                        |   | 2013          |
| Pelion                              |          |             | 0.032 ppm                        |   | 2012          |
| <b>Lead</b>                         | 0        | AL=15 ppb   | 90th Percentile                  | Corrosion of household plumbing system                              |               |
| Lake Murray Plant                   |          |             | 0.0                              |   | 2012          |
| JMWSC                               |          |             | 0.0                              |   | 2013          |
| <b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>      | N/A      | 60 ppb      |                                  | Disinfection by-products  |               |
| Lake Murray Plant                   |          |             | RAA = 34 ug/L<br>Range = ND-54.9 |   | 2013          |
| JMWSC                               |          |             | 10<br>Range = 11.06-60           |   | 2013          |
| Pelion                              |          |             | 14<br>Range = 54-54              |   | 2013          |
| <b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</b> | N/A      | 80 ppb      |                                  | Disinfection by-products  |               |
| Lake Murray Plant                   |          |             | RAA = 56 ug/L<br>Range = ND-103  |   | 2013          |
| JMWSC                               |          |             | 17<br>Range = 43.45-98.34 ug/L   |   | 2013          |
| Pelion                              |          |             | 17<br>Range = 69.66-69.66 ug/L   |   | 2013          |
| <b>Chlorine (ppm)</b>               |          |             |                                  |   |               |
| Lake Murray Plant                   | MRDL = 4 | MRDL = 4    | 1.76<br>Range = 0.72-1.76        | Water additive used to control microbes                             | 2013          |
| <b>Total Coliform</b>               | 0        | 2 out of 30 | 0 out of 360                     | Bacteria present in the system                                      | 2013          |

### Turbidity

Lake Murray Plant's highest detected level: 0.21 ntu

MCLG: <0.3 ntu in 95% of samples per month

Possible sources: soil runoff

Met MCLG 100%

### Total Organic Carbon

MCLG

N/A

MCL

TT

Range

35.0-45.2%

Level Found

38.8% removal (35% required)

Source

Naturally present

- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow

- **Inorganic Contaminants (IOC's):** chemicals that do not arise from living growth, such as metals and minerals

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** the highest level of a residual disinfectant that is allowed in drinking water

- **ND (Not Detected):** not detectable at testing limit

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water (MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.)

- **Pico curies per liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water

- **Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of the water

- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L):** a measure of concentration that corresponds to one minute in two years; a single penny in \$10,000; one second in 12 days; or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water, etc.

- **Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/L):** a measure of concentration corresponding to one minute in 2,000 years; one penny in \$10,000,000; one second in 32 years; or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water, etc.

- **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM):** a group of four organic compounds that may form when natural organic matter reacts with chlorine

- **Treatment Technique (TT):** a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** an average of the four quarters

- **Not Applicable (N/A):** does not apply



PO Box 2555  
Lexington, SC 29071



The City of West Columbia Source Water Assessment Plan is available for your review at:

[www.scdhec.net/water/html/srcwtr.html](http://www.scdhec.net/water/html/srcwtr.html).

If you do not have internet access, please contact David Chaney with the City of West Columbia at (803) 957-4596 to arrange to review the plan.

## Important Information About Your Drinking Water

### Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminant for JMWSC:

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customer, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Jay Nicholson at (803) 359-8373 or by mail at **PO Box 2555, Lexington, SC 29071**.

**EPA's Hotline:  
1-800-426-4791**

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Approximately seventy three thousand tests were performed at each water treatment facility to ensure the drinking water quality for the City of West Columbia and JMWSC's Customers.