



SUCK CREEK WATER SYSTEM 2008 WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

Water Quality Statement

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or was better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the enclosed table, showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2008. Although all of the substances listed on the 2008 Water Quality Data table surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water

Source Water Information

Your water, which is ground water, comes from the Cambrian/Ordovician-carbonate type aquifer from two water supply wells located on Suck Creek Mountain. To supplement your supply we also purchase water from Lone Oak Utility District whose original source is Tennessee American Water. Tennessee American Water draws surface water from the Tennessee River. 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 (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Suck Creek Water System sources are rated as slightly susceptible (low) to potential contamination and Tennessee American Water is rated as reasonably susceptible (high) 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 <http://tennessee.gov/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml> or you may contact Tennessee American Water to obtain copies of specific assessments. The source water assessment is available for inspection by calling 1-866-736-6420 to schedule an appointment.

Protecting Our Vital Wellhead Area

Suck Creek Water System recognizes its responsibility to protect its wellhead area. No chemicals other than water treatment chemicals will be stored within 750 feet of the wellhead, and the Utility will not apply chemicals on property it owns within 100 feet of the water sources. Applicable signs will be posted. Further, activity within our wellhead management area will be continuously monitored; all discrepancies will be reported to the Tennessee Division of Water Supply. We performed and updated a potential contaminate source inventory in 2006. The Wellhead Protection Plan is available for inspection at 1101 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402. Please call Susan Holmes at 423-755-7649 between 7 AM and 4 PM to schedule an appointment.

The primary source of your drinking water are wells located atop Walden's Ridge within the Suck Creek community. This wellhead area is also the same area through which contaminants are likely to travel and reach your source of supply. The water in those wells comes from groundwater which originates as rainwater and passes through the ground into the water table or well recharge area, known as the aquifer.

Contamination from natural sources or activities by customers can permanently damage the aquifer. In general, groundwater contamination can stem from the misuse or improper disposal of liquid or solid wastes, septic tank failures, exterminators' products, illegal dumping or abandonment of chemicals, or the accidental spilling of chemicals.

The protection of groundwater (your drinking water supply) is vitally important because conventional treatment often does not remove the majority of common household pollutants.

Since many Americans rely on groundwater as the primary source of their drinking water, we need to be aware our actions can render well water unfit for consumption. For example, one gallon of gasoline can render one million gallons of groundwater undrinkable. Special precautions should always be used in disposal of any chemical, which should never be dumped on the ground.

Examples of chemicals which should not be disposed of in household septic systems include oils, lawn chemicals, paint and paint thinners, disinfectants, photo chemicals and swimming pool chemicals. Leaking septic lines compounded by infiltration of surface water can overload the septic system allowing wastewater to return to the aquifer and subsequently your local water supply.

Protection of our groundwater is vitally important as it helps to provide safe and reliable drinking water for everyone. The best way to protect your drinking water is to ensure it does not become contaminated. That means you should know that anything you pour on the ground or down the drain can affect the quality of your drinking water.

Community Participation

Tennessee American Water provides the customer service support for all customer inquiries regarding your water system. Should you have any questions or concerns about your water service, please call Tennessee American's customer support at 1-866-736-6420, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additional Rules that Govern 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.



Important Health Information

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 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).

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the US. Although *Cryptosporidium* can be removed through commonly-used filtration methods, US EPA issued a new rule in January 2006 that requires systems with higher *Cryptosporidium* levels in their source water to provide additional treatment. In anticipation of this upcoming rule, Tennessee American Water monitored for *Cryptosporidium* in its raw water with no detections in 2005. Based upon the results of the *Cryptosporidium* monitoring, no additional treatment by Tennessee American Water will be required by the new US EPA regulation.

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. Tennessee American Water – Suck Creek 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Substances Expected to be in Drinking 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).

To ensure that tap water is of high quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Tennessee American Water's advanced water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern.

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 include:

- **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 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 Susan Holmes at 423-755-7649 or you can visit Tennessee American Water's website at www.tawc.com.

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 1-866-736-6420.

Other Information

Tennessee American Water – Suck Creek System works 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. You can find more information about drinking water, water conservation, source protection and public health from the following sources:

Tennessee American Water
<http://www.tawc.com>

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws>

United States Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>

American Water Works Association
<http://www.awwa.org>

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov>