

# “2020” Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## “System Name”

Water System Number: 04-08-085

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Ricky Spivey at (252) 794-5350. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday at 10:00am and third Monday at 7:00pm at the County Building at 106 Dundee Street.**

### What EPA Wants You to Know

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).

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).

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. Bertie County 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>.

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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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, EPA prescribes 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.

## When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is ground water and is located in and around the county.

### Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for Bertie County was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

#### Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
Spivey Well #1	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Heckstall Well #2	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Harrell Well #3B	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Harrell Well #4	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Champion Well #6	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Copeland Well #7A	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Tayloe Well #8	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Jenkins Well #9	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
McCreery Well # 10	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Dunlow Well #11	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Byrum Well #12	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Illinois Well #13	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Evans Well #14	Lower	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for Bertie County may be viewed on the Web at: <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600>  
Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this web site may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to [swap@ncdenr.gov](mailto:swap@ncdenr.gov). Please indicate your system name, number, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-707-9098.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

### Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. We have implemented the following source water protection actions: You can help protect your community’s drinking water source(s) in several ways: (examples: dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center, volunteer in your community to participate in group efforts to protect your source, etc.).

## Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

During 2020, or during any compliance period that ended in year 2020 we received a *Tier 3* violation that covered the time period of 1-1-2020 through 12-31-2020. We are working with the state to find a way to blend high Fluoride water with lower Fluoride water.

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Violation Awareness Date: 12/23/2020

*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 the compliance period specified in the table below, we exceeded the fluoride Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) OF 2.0 mg/L for the contaminants listed and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.*

CONTAMINANT GROUP**	FACILITY ID NO./ SAMPLE POINT ID	COMPLIANCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES/ SAMPLING FREQUENCY	WHEN SAMPLES WERE TAKEN
FLUORIDE	P01 / E01	1/1/2020	Every 3 Years	2020
FLUORIDE	P02 / E02	1/1/2020	Every 3 Years	2020
FLUORIDE	P14 / E14	1/1/2020	Every 3 Years	2020

(IOC) Inorganic chemicals - include Fluoride.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time.

**What is being done?** The water in some wells is over the action limits. As the water from those wells goes into the distribution system it is blended with water from other wells that are below the action limits.

*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.*

For more information about this violation, please contact the responsible person listed in the first paragraph of this report.

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected in BERTIE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER

(Exceedance of the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level)

*This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system (BERTIE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER) has a fluoride concentration of 2.2 mg/l.*

*Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*

*Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/l of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.*

*For more information, please call Ricky K. Spivey, Sr. of (BERTIE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER) at (252) 794-5300. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.*

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.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person Ricky K. Spivey, Sr.	System Name BERTIE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER	System Address (Street) 106 Dundee St.
Phone Number (252) 794-5350	System PWSID # NC0408085	System Address Windsor, NC 27983

Violation Awareness Date: December 23, 2020

Date Notice Distributed: 2/26/2021

Method of Distribution: Include in the 2020 CCR

**Public Notification Certification:**

**The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumer in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.**

Owner/Operator:   
(Signature)

Ricky K. Spivey, Sr  
(Print Name)

2/26/2021  
(Date)

## Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for each particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, (2020).** The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

**Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted.**

### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Disinfection 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.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)** – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

**Level 1 Assessment** - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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.

## Tables of Detected Contaminants

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Barium (ppm)	4/17/2019	N	0.08	0.0	0.414	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	11/9/2020	N	2.18	1.5	2.6	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Number of sites found above the AL	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	8/23/2019	0.582	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	8/23/2019	0.0	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	Year Sampled	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest RAA)	Range		MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	N	1.21	0.36	2.08	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

### Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Compliance - Based upon Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)						N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location B01	2020	N	20.0		N/A			
Location B02	2020	N	36.0		N/A			
HAA5 (ppb)						N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location B01	2020	N	2.0		N/A			
Location B02	2020	N	4.0		N/A			

**For TTHM:** *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.*

**For HAA5:** *Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

The PWS Section requires monitoring for other misc. contaminants, some for which the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color) in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

### Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		SMCL
			Low	High	
Iron (ppm)	11/9/2020	0.104	0.0	0.104	0.3 mg/L
Manganese (ppm)	4/17/2019	0.003	0.0	0.015	0.05 mg/L
Sodium (ppm)	11/9/2020	159.93	115.83	185.13	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	11/9/2020	38.56	33.70	48.00	250 mg/L
pH	11/9/2020	7.6	7.3	8.0	6.5 to 8.5

#### UCMR 4 Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Manganese (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	3.46	0.4	0.273	N/A	N/A	
Germanium (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	0.09	0.0	0.3	N/A	N/A	
Bromide (mg/L)	6/20/18	N	0.042	0.0	0.250	N/A	N/A	
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	6/20/18	N	0.962	0.0	1.98	N/A	N/A	
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	0.186	0.0	0.371	N/A	N/A	
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	0.220	0.0	0.440	N/A	N/A	
Dibromoacetic Acid (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	1.126	0.0	1.82	N/A	N/A	
Dichloroacetic Acid (ug/L)	6/20/18	N	0.208	0.206	0.210	N/A	N/A	