

ELLSWORTH CO RWD 1

Consumer Confidence Report – 2016

Covering Calendar Year – 2015



This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affect drinking water quality, please call JOSH RANKER at 785-472-4486.

Your water comes from surface water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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).

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 (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 sources water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, 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 storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 4 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2015. The state requires 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. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum

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.

Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Testing Results for: ELLSWORTH CO RWD 1

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	5/6/2015	2	2	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits
ATRAZINE	7/13/2015	0.51	0.51	ppb	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BARIUM	5/6/2015	0.08	0.08	ppm	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries
FLUORIDE	5/6/2015	0.83	0.55 - 0.83	ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
NITRATE	5/6/2015	0.38	0.38	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
SELENIUM	5/6/2015	2.3	2.3	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	Your Highest RAA	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2015	30	10.7 - 23.3	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2015	67	25 - 61.7	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2015	0.46	0.023 - 0.58	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
LEAD	2015	4.3	1.9 - 11	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing

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 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>.

Total Organic Carbon Lowest Month for Removal	Number of Samples	Actual Ratio	Removal	Required Removal Ratio	Lowest Monthly Removal Ratio
6/1/2015 - 6/30/2015	12	1.50		1.0 RATIO	0.73

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	6/9/2014	0.6	0.6	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Our Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	5/6/2015	140	140	MG/L	300
ALUMINUM	5/6/2015	0.017	0.017	MG/L	0.05
CALCIUM	5/6/2015	79	79	MG/L	200
CHLORIDE	5/6/2015	170	170	MG/L	250
CONDUCTIVITY @ 25 C UMHOS/CM	5/6/2015	1100	1100	UMHO/CM	1500
CORROSIVITY	5/6/2015	0.26	0.26	LANG	0
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	5/6/2015	260	260	MG/L	400
MAGNESIUM	5/6/2015	14	14	MG/L	150
MANGANESE	5/6/2015	0.002	0.002	MG/L	0.05
METOLACHLOR	6/25/2014	0.98	0.98	ppb	
NICKEL	5/6/2015	0.0019	0.0019	MG/L	0.1
PH	5/6/2015	7.8	7.8	PH	8.5
PHOSPHORUS, TOTAL	5/6/2015	0.02	0.02	MG/L	5
POTASSIUM	5/6/2015	10	10	MG/L	100
SILICA	5/6/2015	8.3	8.3	MG/L	50
SODIUM	5/6/2015	110	110	MG/L	100
SULFATE	5/6/2015	120	120	MG/L	250
TDS	5/6/2015	600	600	MG/L	500
ZINC	5/6/2015	0.015	0.015	MG/L	5

During the 2015 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Comment
8/1/2015 - 8/31/2015	SWTR-FILTER	FAILED TO MONITOR VIOLATION.

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

Please Note: Because of sampling schedules, results may be older than 1 year.



Rural Water District No. 1, Ellsworth Co., Kansas

103 N. Douglas Ellsworth, KS 67439 ♦ Phone (785) 472-4486 ♦ www.postrockrwd.com



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Ellsworth Co RWD 1

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. On the dates of August 9, 10 and 11, 2015, we did not collect all of the required readings of the disinfectant residual level in the water leaving the treatment plant. We are required to collect at least four (4) of these readings per day, but on August 9, 10th and 11th we only collected 2 each day. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. 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.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time.

What happened? What is being done?

- On the dates of August 9, 10 and 11, 2015, all of the required readings of the disinfectant residual level in the water leaving the treatment plant were not collected. Since August 12, 2015, the required number of readings has been collected.

We anticipate resolving the problem within:

- The problem was resolved when the required number of readings was being collected on August 12, 2015.

For more information, please contact: Josh Ranker at: 785-472-4486
Or by Mail: 103 N Douglas, Ellsworth, KS 67439

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 notice is being sent to you by Ellsworth Co RWD 1.

Federal Water System ID #: KS2005309



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Treatment Technique Not Met for Ellsworth Co RWD 1

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this 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 2016 we did not monitor for Total Organic Carbon (TOC).

Water systems with surface water treatment plants are required by federal rule to monitor the water every month for TOC, which is a disinfection by-product precursor. TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products such as Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer. First Quarter 2016 results show that our water system did not exceed the maximum contaminant level for TTHMs or HAAs.

What should I do?

- You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

- In January 2016, samples were rejected and then the replacement samples were not collected. In February, samples were collected correctly and samples are back on the correct schedule.

We anticipate resolving the problem within:

- The problem was resolved when samples were collected in February 2016.

For more information, please contact Name: Josh Ranker at Phone: 785-472-4486

Or by Mail: 103 N Douglas, Ellsworth, KS 67439

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