

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Spruce Pine

Water System Number: 01-61-010

The Town of Spruce Pine is 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 sources 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 The Town of Spruce Pine at 828-765-3000. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

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).

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

Beaver Creek Reservoir is the primary water source for the Town and is located at the headwaters of Beaver Creek. This reservoir is classified as WSI surface water supply. WSI is a protected area where laws prevent contamination from an outside source.

North Toe River supplies additional water through an intake located just upstream of the US19E bridge in Avery County. The Toe River is classified as a WSIV stream. WSIV indicates an easily accessible location that is subject to easy contamination.

Carters Ridge Wells are sources of ground water available to the Town of Spruce Pine used during times of high consumption. These wells are located on Carters Ridge Road and are not classified by the state, however they are subject to the same stringent testing as all other sources.

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 the Town of Spruce Pine 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 Reporting Date
Beaver Creak	Lower	September 9, 2020
Toe River	Moderate	September 9, 2020
Carters Ridge Well #1	Lower	September 9, 2020
Carters Ridge Well #2	Lower	September 9, 2020

It is important to note that a susceptibility rating of “Higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the systems’ potential to become contaminated by potential contaminant sources in the assessment area.

The complete SWAP Assessment report for the Town of Spruce Pine 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 website 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@deq.nc.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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

- Not-Applicable (N/A) – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular rule.
- Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.
- 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 (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- 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.
- Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.
- 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.

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, 2024.** 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.

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant	Sample Date	Your Water (90th Percentile)	Number of sites found above the AL	Range Low - High	MCGL	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	August 2022	0.1	0	0.0 - 0.4	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	August 2022	0	0	0 - 4	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

The table above summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please email us at water@sprucepine-nc.gov

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and prepared an inventory of all service lines in our water system. To access this inventory, go to <https://www.townofsprucepine.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/NC0161010-1.xlsx>

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. The Town of Spruce Pine is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Spruce Pine at water@sprucepine-nc.gov or at 828-765-3000. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb)	2024	N	33	11 - 49	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (ppb)	2024	N	29	15 - 38	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range Low High	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.70	0.4 - 2.2	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Turbidity*

Contaminant (units)	Treatment Technique (TT) Violation (Y/N)	Your Water	MCLG	Treatment Technique (TT) Violation if:	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU) - Highest single turbidity measurement	N	0.04 NTU	N/A	Turbidity > 1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (%) - Lowest monthly percentage (%) of samples meeting turbidity limits	N	100%	N/A	Less than 95% of monthly turbidity measurements are ≤ 0.3 NTU	Soil Runoff

** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU.*

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant (units)	(TT) Violation (Y/N)	Your Water (lowest RAA)	Range Monthly Removal Ratio Low - High	MCLG	Treatment Technique (TT) violation if:	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	N	1.00	1.00 - 1.00	N/A	Removal Ratio RAA <1.00 and alternative compliance criteria was not met	Naturally present in the environment

Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low - High	SMCL
Sodium (ppm)	02/13/24	5.74	N/A	N/A
pH	02/13/24	7.3	N/A	6.5 to 8.5

What If I have Any Questions or Would Like to Become More Involved?

Citizens who are interested in learning more about the operation of the Town or water system are invited to attend regular Town Council meetings at the Town Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30pm. The operation of the Town of Spruce Pine Water Treatment Plant is contracted to Veolia North America. Questions concerning this report, water treatment, or water quality should be directed to the staff at the Water Treatment Plant at 828-765-3011.

Este informe contiene información sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o 'hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.