City of OXFORD
BIRTHPLACE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

2024 Water Quality Report

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SURFACE WATER TO TAP

Have you ever had water that had a dissatisfactory color, odor or taste? You would wonder if it was safe to drink, wouldn't you? We understand that you expect only the best water that is pleasing to sight and smell and guarded against pathogens. The City of Oxford purchases the water provided to its customers from the Newton County Water and Sewer Authority (NCWSA). Two water sources supply water for two treatment facilities that produce a blended water for customers of NCWSA. Lake Varner, an 820-acre reservoir, is the source for Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility (WTF). Cornish Creek WTF is an up-flow clarification facility permitted for 25 MGD (Million Gallons per Day). Ninety-three percent of the water produced in 2011 by NCWSA came from Lake Varner. Williams Street WTF is a conventional plant capable of producing 4.0 MGD. Its source of water is the Alcovy River. Cornish Creek WTF pumps water from the Alcovy River to City Pond Reservoir where it gravity flows or is pumped to Williams Street WTF. Contaminants and potential pollution sources in a watershed are identified in a source water assessment plan. A source water assessment plan for the Alcovy River watershed has been completed. The overall susceptibility of the watershed was rated medium. The greatest potential threats to source water quality are agricultural waste ponds and secondary paved roads. The recommendations from the plant will ensure that citizens served by NCWSA will be provided the best quality water in the future.

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that 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 storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, 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.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 (1-800-426-4791). 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, persons 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Newton County Water System (for Oxford)

Cornish Creek WTF = Source of 99.48% of Water Produced in 2024
Williams Street WTF = Source of 0.52% of Water Produced in 2024

Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminants							
Substance	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Newton County Water System Maximum**	**Detected Range**	**Violation Y/N**	**Year Tested**	**Typical Sources of Contaminant**
			Microbiological Contaminants				
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples 0.3 NTU	0 100 %	.27 NTU	0.03 - 0.27 NTU	**NO**	2024	Agriculture, Geology
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	1.66 ppm	0.93 - 1.66 ppm	**NO**	2024	Human & Animal Waste
			Organic Compounds				
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	*57 ppb	52 - 57 ppb	**NO**	2024	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	*38 ppb	31 - 38 ppb	**NO**	2024	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4ppm	2.14 ppm	.34 - 2.14 ppm	**NO**	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance							
			Inorganic Contaminants				
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.61 ppm	0.27 - 1.61 ppm	**NO**	2024	Additive / Naturally Occurring
Substance	**Action Level**	**MCLG**	**Oxford Water System 90th Percentile**	**Detected Range****	**Violation Y/N**	**Year Tested**	**Typical Sources of Contaminant**
Copper	1300 ppb	N/A	61.2 ppb	0.007 - 77.6 ppb	**NO 0 Above Action Level**	2023	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	N/A	0.6 ppb	0 - 57.3 ppb	**NO 1 Above Action Level**	2023	Household Piping
* The City of Oxford Service Line Inventory can be found at https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com/.							

DEFINITIONS

MG: Million Gallons

MGD: Million Gallons per Day

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.

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

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppm or mg/L: Parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is the equivalent of one minute in 2 years or one penny in $10,000.

ppb or ug/L: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is the equivalent of one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000.

N/A: Not Applicable

TURBIDITY

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water primarily results from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Oxford is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The City of Oxford's Service Line Inventory can be accessed at: https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com. The City of Oxford found **zero lead or galvanized-requiring-replacement service lines** during the initial Service Line Investigation.