

**2002 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Forrest City Waterworks**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. 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, can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Our source of water is nine wells that draw from the Quaternary System aquifer.

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; Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All 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 the 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 at 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, 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Beazley, Manager, at 870-633-2923. 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 third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM at 303 N. Rosser Street in the water utility office.

Forrest City Waterworks routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002. In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**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** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG)** is 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.

TEST RESULTS						
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride: New Water Treatment Plant	N	Average: 0.95 Range: 0.25 - 1.11	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Fluoride: Old Water Treatment Plant	N	Average: 1.01 Range: 0.93 - 1.11	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen): New Water Treatment Plant	N	1.65	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen): Old Water Treatment Plant	N	2.80	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	Highest annual average: 6.48 Range: 2.6 - 11.7	ppb	NA	100	By-products of drinking water disinfection
LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING						
Contaminant	Number of Sites over Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	Unit of Measurement	Action Level	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	0	0.002	0.003	mg/L	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	0	0.66	0.68	mg/L	1.3	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Forrest City Waterworks is on a reduced monitoring schedule and required to sample once every three years for lead and copper at the customers' taps. Our last monitoring period was in 2001. Our next required monitoring period is the year 2004.

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Tetrachloroethylene [Tetrachloroethene] Old Water Treatment Plant	N	Average: 0.91 Range: 0.44 – 1.08	ppb	0	5	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trichloroethylene [Trichloroethene]: New Water Treatment Plant	N	Average: 2.87 Range: 1.2 – 6.1	ppb	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene: New Water Treatment Plant	N	Average: 0.7 Range: 0.49 – 0.95	ppb	70	70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant		Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	Major Sources in Drinking Water		
Chloroform : New Water Treatment Plant		Average: 0.28 Range: 0.15 – 0.4	ppb	By-products of drinking water disinfection		
Bromoform : New Water Treatment Plant		Average: 2.3 Range: 1.1 – 4.4				
Bromodichloromethane: New Water Treatment Plant		Average: 0.51 Range: 0.29 – 0.83				
Dibromochloromethane: New Water Treatment Plant		Average: 2.36 Range: 0.92 – 4.8				
Chloroform: Old Water Treatment Plant		Average: 0.42 Range: 0.16 – 0.68				
Bromoform: Old Water Treatment Plant		Average: 2.95 Range: 1 – 3.96				
Bromodichloromethane: Old Water Treatment Plant		Average: 0.78 Range: 0.38 – 1.12				
Dibromochloromethane: Old Water Treatment Plant		Average: 3.86 Range: 1.5 – 5.68				
Methyl tertiary butyl ether [MTBE]: Old Water Treatment Plant		Average: 1.86 Range: 0.22 – 3.5	ppb	Octane enhancer in unleaded gasoline		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 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 regulation is warranted. MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) and MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) have not been established for unregulated contaminants.</li> <li>◆ Forrest City Waterworks is required to sample for unregulated contaminants triennially. The data in the unregulated contaminant table is from 2002 and is the most recent data available. Forrest City Waterworks is required to sample again for unregulated contaminants by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.</li> </ul>						