

2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

SC-DHEC System #3720001

Our #1 Priority: A Safe and Reliable Supply of Drinking Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the amounts of various contaminants that are acceptable in public drinking water. Pioneer Rural Water District tests frequently for the presence of these contaminants. Monitoring reminds us of the importance of protecting our precious natural resource....water.

Our top priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water that can be used with confidence. We work hard to ensure that the water delivered to you meets all regulatory requirements and your expectations for safety, reliability and quality.

The information provided in this report was collected and reported in accordance with the water quality standards established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC-DHEC).

This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we delivered to you over the past year. The attached tables show the results of monitoring for the period **January 1st. to December 31st. 2016** or the most recent monitoring period as indicated.

The Source of our Water

The Pioneer Rural Water District supplies water to southern Oconee County and northwestern Anderson County. Treated surface water is purchased from the Westminster Commission of Public Works and the Seneca Light and Water Plant for distribution to our members. Westminster's treated water comes from the Chauga River; Seneca's, from Lake Keowee. Results of their monitoring are included as a part of our reporting process.

Westminster and Seneca's Source Water Assessment Plans (SWAP) are available for your review at www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srcwtr.html. If you do not have internet access, please contact our Business Office at 864/972-3082 to make arrangements to review these documents.

Water and Health Risks....

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemicals contaminants and radioactive contaminants. 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 for 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). More information about drinking water can be found at the EPA's website www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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. Pioneer Rural Water District 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 drinking 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>.

Disinfectant 2016

Chlorine:

MDRL = 4

MDRLG = 4

Typical Source: Water additive used to control microbes

Violation: No

Highest Quarterly Average= 1.1

Range = 0.9 – 1.1

Inorganic Contaminants (Last monitored in 2014)

| | Copper (ppm) | Lead (ppb) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Action Level = | 1.3 | 0 |
| 90 th Percentile Value = | 0.045 | 0 |
| # Sites Exceeding Action Level = | 0 of 20 | 0 of 20 |

Typical Source: Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Violation: No

OUR SUPPLIERS' TEST RESULTS:

| <u>Seneca</u> | Monitored 2016 | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Fluoride (ppm) | Nitrate (ppm) |
| Level Detected = | 0.90 | 0.040 |
| MCL | 4 | 10 |
| MCLG | 4 | 10 |
| Violation: | No | No |

| <u>Seneca</u> | Monitored 2016 | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | TTHM (ppb) | HAA5 (ppb) |
| Level Detected = RAA | 42 | 25 |
| Range | 18.3 - 85.1 | 15.5 - 37.7 |
| MCL | 80 | 60 |
| MCLG | 0 | 0 |
| Violation: | No | No |

| <u>Westminster</u> | Monitored: 2016 | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Fluoride (ppm) | Nitrate (ppm) |
| Level Detected = | 0.5 | |
| MCL | 4 | |
| MCLG | 4 | |
| Violation: | No | |

Typical source of fluoride is the erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Nitrate source is run-off from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Legend:

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level- The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - 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.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

AL = Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or

other requirements which a water system must follow.

PPM = Milligrams per liter or one part per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

PPB = Micrograms per liter or one part per billion.

Na – not applicable

Avg – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. We have Been Monitored for the **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 3 (UCMR 3)** in 2013.

| Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 3 | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|---|
| Parameter | Unit | Range | Possible Sources |
| Strontium (Westminster) | Ug/L | 12.0 | It is naturally-occurring element and is used as strontium carbonate in pyrotechnics, in steel production, as a catalyst and as a lead scavenger. |
| Strontium (Seneca) | Ug/L | 10.0 | It is naturally-occurring element and is used as strontium carbonate in pyrotechnics, in steel production, as a catalyst and as a lead scavenger. |
| Strontium (Distribution) | Ug/L | 11.0 | It is naturally-occurring element and is used as strontium carbonate in pyrotechnics, in steel production, as a catalyst and as a lead scavenger. |
| Hexavalent Chromium (Dissolved) (Westminster) | Ug/L | 0.047 | Naturally occurring. |
| Hexavalent Chromium (Dissolved) (Seneca) | Ug/L | 0.14 | Naturally occurring. |
| Hexavalent Chromium (Dissolved) (Distribution) | Ug/L | 0.082 | Naturally occurring. |
| Vanadium (Seneca) | Ug/L | 0.23 | It is a naturally-occurring element and is commonly used as vanadium pentoxide in the production of other substances and as a catalyst. |
| Vanadium (Distribution) | Ug/L | 0.25 | It is a naturally-occurring element and is commonly used as vanadium pentoxide in the production of other substances and as a catalyst. |
| Chromium (Seneca) | Ug/L | 0.3 | Naturally occurring. |
| Chromium (Distribution) | Ug/L | 0.25 | Naturally occurring. |
| Chlorate (Westminster) | Ug/L | 86 | Chlorate compounds are used in agriculture as defoliant or desiccants and may occur in drinking water related to use of disinfectants such as chlorine dioxide. |
| Chlorate (Seneca) | Ug/L | 160 | Chlorate compounds are used in agriculture as defoliant or desiccants and may occur in drinking water related to use of disinfectants such as chlorine dioxide. |
| Chlorate (Distribution) | Ug/L | 210 | Chlorate compounds are used in agriculture as defoliant or desiccants and may occur in drinking water related to use of disinfectants such as chlorine dioxide. |

We are proud to report that all water provided by Pioneer met or exceeded established federal and state water quality standards.

Still Have Questions?

Customer Service Department

5500 West-Oak Highway Westminster, SC 29693
 Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
 Phone: 864/972-3082 or 800/244-1649
www.pioneerwater.net

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, you may attend our Board Meetings and the District's Annual Meeting. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of Jan-Mar-May-July-Sep-Nov. Annual Meeting is in June

Help Protect our Water System

Please report any suspicious activity including theft of water from fire hydrants to 864/972-8567 or 800-244-1648.