



Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma

2021 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

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Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) /Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from an underground aquifer and is pumped through one groundwater well that is regulated under EPA Region 6. We also have an emergency connection with the City of Ponca to supply us water when our well is not in operation. The City of Ponca (Ponca City Municipal Water, OK1021202) supplied us with water beginning January to July of 2020.

Source Water Assessment and its availability

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act authorize a Source Water Assessment to determine the susceptibility of a public drinking water supply to contamination. Potential sources of contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act are required to be inventoried during the assessment process. The EPA Region 6 Safe Drinking Water Branch in collaboration with the Ponca Office of Environment Management will schedule to do that assessment in the near future, and a final report will be available to you.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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) 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.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 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.

How can I get involved?

You can assist the Ponca Tribal Water Utilities Department and the community in protecting our valuable water resources by conserving water usage, reporting broken water lines or unusual activity near well houses, storage tanks or hydrants. For more information, please contact our office at (580) 762-8104.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill harmful bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Your water is also treated by the addition of caustic soda to enable a pH adjustment to the required levels. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly. Take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting

one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for 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. We are 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

2021 Water Quality Data Tables

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Detected Regulated Contaminants

Coliform Bacteria						
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive detected	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1	0	0	No*	Naturally present in environment

- Repeat samples and triggered source samples collected tested negative for total coliform and negative for E. Coli

Lead and Copper							
Contaminants	ALG	AL	90 th percentile	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - Action levels at consumer taps (mg/L)	< 1.3	1.3	0.803	2021	0	No	Erosion of Natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Highest Detected	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial growth)								
Chlorine (mg/L)	<4.0	4.0	1.77	0.01	1.77	2021	No	Water additive to control growth of microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No goal for the total	60	5.36	5.36	5.36	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	No goal for the total	80	35.9	35.9	35.9	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	1.94	1.93	1.94	2021	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1 (Avg)	0.117	2.55	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	1 (Avg)	ND	1.63	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (mg/L)	< 2	2	0.038	0.038	0.045	12/1/2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (mg/L)	< 4	4	0.61	0.61	0.61	12/1/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/L)	<10	10	4.15	4.14	4.15	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
µg/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
mrem/yr.	Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
ALG	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety
90 th Percentile	A value at which 90% of all samples collected tested at or below this value
Variances and	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
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.
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 <i>E. coli</i> MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

2021 violations

Combined Radium 226/228

Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	4/1/2021	6/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. We sampled during the 4 th quarter 2021 and were returned to compliance
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	7/1/2021	9/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. We sampled during the 4 th quarter 2021 and were returned to compliance

Gross Alpha excluding Radon and Uranium

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	4/1/2021	6/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. We sampled during the 4 th quarter 2021 and were returned to compliance
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	7/1/2021	9/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. We sampled during the 4 th quarter 2021 and were returned to compliance

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	1/29/2020	6/25/2021	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water. We have since corrected this violation by posting the public notice and the system has been returned to compliance.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E.Coli. E Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that water may be contaminated with human waste or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea and headaches.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	10/1/2021	10/31/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. We sampled in December 2021 and were returned to compliance.

Uranium

Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of MCL (30ug/L) over many years may have increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	4/1/2021	6/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	7/1/2021	9/30/2021	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

For more information please contact:

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