

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Liberty

Water System Number: NC 02-76-025

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Introduction

We are 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 source(s) 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 Kevin Coble at 336-622-3955. 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 at Town Hall on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 PM at 239 S. Fayetteville Street Liberty, NC 27298.**

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

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.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. Town of Liberty 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 **Pace Analytical Services at www.pacelabs.com**. 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>.

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, **visit the Town of Liberty Public Works Water/Sewer Department Office located at 217 W. Swannanoa Ave. Liberty, NC 27298.**

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is **Ground Water from 9 wells** and is located in **Liberty**.

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 **Town of Liberty** 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:

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
Well #1	Higher	September 10, 2020
Well #10	Moderate	September 10, 2020
Well #11	Moderate	September 10, 2020
Well #12	Moderate	September 10, 2020
Well #2	Higher	September 10, 2020
Well #4	Higher	September 10, 2020
Well #5	Moderate	September 10, 2020
Well #6	Higher	September 10, 2020
Well #8	Higher	September 10, 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for **Town of Liberty** 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.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. We have implemented the following source water protection actions: **You can help protect your community’s drinking water source(s) in several ways: (examples: dispose of chemicals properly, take used motor oil to a recycling center, volunteer in your community to participate in group efforts to protect your source, etc.).**

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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

Herbicide – Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

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.

Pesticide – Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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.

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.

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.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

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 trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/L) - One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/L) - One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variations and Exceptions – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or Treatment Technique under certain conditions.

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, 2025.** 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

The table 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 kcoble@townoflibertync.org .							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water (90 th Percentile)	Number of sites found above the AL	Range Low High	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	2023	0.21ppm	0	0.079 – 0.25	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 th percentile)	2023	0	0	0 – 3.7	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	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)	No	0.35 ppm	0.2 – 0.47 ppm	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Asbestos Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Asbestos (MFL)	9/7/22	No	0	NA	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate/Nitrite Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2025	No	1.8 ppm	0 – 1.8 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Combined radium (pCi/L)	3/22/23	No	1.04	0	1.04	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	3/22/23	No	0.780	0	0.780	0	20.1	Erosion of natural deposits

* Note: The MCL for beta/photon emitters is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	7/22/25	No	0.10 ppm	0	0.10 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
2,4-D (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	70	70	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	50	50	Residue of banned herbicide
Alachlor (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	2	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAH) (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	200	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	40	40	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	2	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	400	400	Discharge from chemical factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	2025	No	1 ppb	0	1 ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
DBCP [Dibromochloropropane] (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	200	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	7	7	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Endrin (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	2	2	Residue of banned insecticide
EDB [Ethylene dibromide] (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	50	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Heptachlor (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	400	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	200	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	0	1	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	50	50	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Methoxychlor (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	40	40	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	NA	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes

PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	2025	No	0	NA	0	500	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	0	1	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	500	500	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	4	4	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	2025	No	0	NA	0	3	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle

Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Benzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon tetrachloride (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		100	100	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		600	600	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		75	75	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2 – Dichloroethane (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1 – Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		70	70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		100	100	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		700	700	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		100	100	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	5	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,2,4 –Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		70	70	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1 – Trichloroethane (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		200	200	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2 –Trichloroethane (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		3	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2025	No	1.1 ppb	0 – 1.1 ppb		0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Toluene (ppm)	2024	No	0	NA		1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	2024	No	0	NA		0	2	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (Total) (ppm)	2024	No	0	NA		10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Microbiological Contaminants in the Distribution System

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Number of Positive/Present Samples	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>E. coli</i> (presence or absence)	No	0	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> <u>Note:</u> If either an original routine sample and/or its repeat samples(s) are <i>E. coli</i> positive, a Tier 1 violation exists.	Human and animal fecal waste

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Regulation (UCMR)

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water (average)	Range	
			Low	High
PFOS	2024	19.61	1.80	67.80
PFOA	2024	2.0	1.04	2.89

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. 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 regulations are warranted. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact us at kcoble@townoflibertync.org.

For more information regarding PFOA see NC DEQ at:
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/key-issues/emerging-compounds/understanding-pfas>

Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		SMCL
			Low	High	
Iron (ppm)	2025	0	NA		0.3
Manganese (ppm)	2025	0.31 ppm	0 – 0.31 ppm		0.05
Nickel (ppm)	2025	0	NA		N/A
Sodium (ppm)	2025	29.2 ppm	6.0 – 29.2 ppm		N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	20.4 ppm	0 – 20.4 ppm		250
pH	2025	6.72	5.92 – 6.72		6.5 to 8.5

The PWS Section requires monitoring for other misc. contaminants, some for which the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color) in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.