

Town of Onancock
2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
PWSID 3001620

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2025 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

Mr. Dean Savannah, Water Operator (757) 787-8679

If you want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Town Manager's Office (757) 787-3363

How can I get involved?

The times and location of regularly scheduled town council meetings are as follows:

Town Hall, 15 North Street: Fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm

Spanish (Español) – Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

French (Français) – Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 human activity.

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 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 byproducts 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.

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).

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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year lifespan. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person 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/Center 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER AND TREATMENT

The Town of Onancock receives its water from three (3) wells off Hartman Avenue. The source of your water is groundwater that is treated with chlorine to preserve water quality.

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a Source Water Assessment of the wells in 2018. The susceptibility to contamination of the wells was rated as low susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment reports consist of maps showing the Source Water Assessment area, an inventory of known Land Use Activities and Potential Conduits to Groundwater utilized at Land Use Activity sites in Zone 1 and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years, Susceptibility Explanation Chart, and Definitions of Key Terms. The reports are available by contacting your waterworks system owner/operator at the phone number or address included in the CCR.

In 2025, your water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Town vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

DEFINITIONS

- **Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, that a water system must follow.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Not Applicable NA**
- **Not Detected (ND)** - the test method/equipment did not measure any compound.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- **Revised Total Coliform Rule- RTRC**
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **LVL 1** – Level 1 Assessment under the RTRC - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our waterworks.
- **LVL 2** – Level 2 Assessment under the RTRC - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. coli* PMCL violation has occurred and why total coliform bacteria have been found in our waterworks on multiple occasions.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The EPA requires that Table I reflect monitoring results for the period of January 1st, 2021, through December 31st, 2025. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, may be more than one year old. Only the most recent sample results from the prescribed period are reported. The table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS (Detected Contaminants Only)

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.06	N/A	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	0.2	NA	N	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	0	50*	3.9	NA	N	2023	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

* The MCL for Gross Beta is 4 mrem/year however EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern.

DISINFECTION & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Average Level Detected	Range	Date of Sample	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.22	0.2 - 0.2	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM (ppb)	80	80	7	N/A	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	4.7	N/A	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

LEAD & COPPER

CONTAMINANT (units)	MCLG	Action Level	Average Level Detected	Range	# of samples above AL	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.22	ND - 0.37	0	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching of wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	5	ND - 5.77	0	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

A note about 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. The Town of Wakefield waterworks 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 The Town of Onancock and the Town Manager's Office at (757) 787-3363. 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>.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

A lead service line inventory was prepared and submitted to the Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water on June 17, 2025. For access to this inventory, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (757) 787-3363.

Analyte (units)	Average Level Detected	Range	Date of Samples	Typical Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	22.2	N/A	2025	Sodium occurs naturally in groundwater. However, sources such as road salt, water softeners, natural underground salt deposits, pollution from septic systems as well as saltwater intrusion due to proximity to the ocean are often causes of elevated levels in drinking water supplies.

A note about sodium in drinking water: Drinking water does not play a significant role in sodium exposure for most individuals. Those that are under treatment for sodium-sensitive hypertension should consult with their health care provider regarding sodium levels in their drinking water supply and the advisability of using an alternative water source or point-of-use treatment to reduce the sodium. For individuals on a very low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking-water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. The World Health Organization has established a drinking water guideline of 200 mg of sodium/L on the basis of esthetic considerations (i.e., taste).

CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 20 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3 – 5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce your next water bill!

VIOLATIONS

Late completion and submittal of an initial service line inventory (inventory submitted after October 16, 2024).

TT Violation	Explanation	Length	Steps Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Failed to develop and submit the initial lead service line inventory by October 16, 2024.	We were required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024. We failed to develop and submit this initial inventory of service lines to the Virginia Department of Health by October 16, 2024.	244 days	We hired a consultant to assist in completing and submitting the initial service line inventory. We submitted the inventory on June 17, 2025.	Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Failure to make initial service line inventory publicly accessible.

TT Violation	Explanation	Length	Steps Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Failure to make initial service line inventory publicly accessible	We were required to make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024.	244 days	We hired a contractor who assisted in making the initial service line inventory available online. We made the service line inventory available online on June 17, 2025.	Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems

**Notice to Consumers of the
TOWN OF ONANCOCK Waterworks**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Major Routine Monitoring Failure under RTCR

Our water system recently failed to comply with the requirement to collect bacteriological samples in accordance with our approved bacteriological sample siting plan (BSSP). Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the February 2025 monitoring period, we did not collect any of the required samples, and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. One sample was required and no samples were collected.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What is being done?

We have resumed monthly sampling as required.

For more information, please contact Matt Spuck at (757) 787-3363 or 15 North Street Onancock, VA 23417.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*
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This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Onancock.

State Water System ID#: 3001620.