



# 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Town of Fairmont Municipal Water System

Water System Number: 03-78-025



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 sources 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 Taylor or Johnny Britt at 910-628-0064 or 910-272-0833. 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. The Fairmont Board of Commissioners meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the second floor council chambers of Town Hall. Questions concerning water bills should be directed to Veronica Hunt at 910-628-9766, extension 213.**

## 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).

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. The Fairmont Municipal Water System 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 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>.

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; 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 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.

## When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The Fairmont Municipal Water System obtains all raw water from 3 deep wells in the Black Creek Aquifer. The wells range in depth from 256 feet to 280 feet. The water is run through a filtration system then fluoridated and chlorinated. The water from the Marion Stage, Gertrude and Morro Street wells is treated at each well site.

### Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environment 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 Fairmont Municipal Water System has 3 separate water sources. Two sources were determined to have moderate susceptibility. One source was determined to have lower susceptibility.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for the Fairmont Municipal Water System 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:

#### Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
Well # 1 – Marion Stage	Lower	September 10, 2020
Well # 2 – Gertrude Street	Moderate	September 10, 2020
Well #3 – Morro Street	Moderate	September 10, 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for the Fairmont Municipal Water System 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 web site 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@ncdenr.gov](mailto:swap@ncdenr.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.

### Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

During 2019, or during any compliance period that ended in 2020, we received a monitoring violation for VOC for October 3, 2019 because the Morro Street Well was down for repairs. The Town of Fairmont also received a monitoring violation for DBP (Disinfection By-Products) for 2020 because the sample date of July 31, 2020 was missed. The sample was taken a week late on August 4, 2020.

## Violations Received for 2020

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Violation Awareness Dates: November 6, 2019 and August 14, 2020

*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 compliance period specified in the table below, we did not monitor or test for the contaminants listed and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.*

CONTAMINANT GROUP**	FACILITY ID NO./ SAMPLE POINT ID	COMPLIANCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES/ SAMPLING FREQUENCY	WHEN SAMPLES WERE TAKEN (Returned to Compliance)
VOC	PO3/EP3	JULY 1, 2019	1/QUARTER	September 17, 2020
CD(DBP)	DO1	JANUARY 1, 2020	1/ANNUAL (JULY)	August 4, 2020

**(CD) Chlorine Dioxide/Chlorite** – includes testing for Chlorine Dioxide and/or Chlorite.

**(VOC) - Volatile Organic Chemicals** - include 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Xylenes (Total), Dichloromethane, o-Dichlorobenzene, p-Dichlorobenzene, Vinyl Chloride, 1,1,-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2,-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Trichloroethylene, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Tetrachloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Styrene.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time.

**What is being done?** The Town of Fairmont had a monitoring violation for VOC for October 3, 2019 because the Morro Street Well was down for repairs. The Town of Fairmont also received a monitoring violation for DBP (Disinfection By-Products) for 2020 because the sample date of July 31, 2020 was missed. The sample was taken a week late on August 4, 2020.

*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.*

For more information about this violation, please contact the responsible person listed in the first paragraph of this report.

## 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 table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the 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, 2020.** 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. Samples will be taken again 2022.

### **Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

***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 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.

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

***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.

***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 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.

**REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE:**

**Microbiological Contaminants in the Distribution System - For systems that collect less than 40 samples per month - 2019**

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (presence or absence)	N/A	N/A	N/A	TT*	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i> (presence or absence)			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>  Note: 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

**REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE:**

**Microbiological Contaminants in the Distribution System - For systems that collect less than 40 samples per month - 2020**

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (presence or absence)	N/A	N/A	N/A	TT*	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i> (presence or absence)			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>  Note: 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

**Tables of Detected Contaminants**

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	10/14/19	N	0.9	0.5	1.0	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			
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	11/30/2016	N	2.1 ppb	2.1	2.1ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

**Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	2/14/2019	N	2.62	2.62	2.62	75	75	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	12/20/2018	N	7.32	7.32	7.32	100	100	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories

### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/14/16	0.216	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/14/16	N/D	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/11/19	0.114	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/11/19	0.006	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	Year Sampled	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest RAA)	Range		MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	N	0.4 ppm	0.3-0.6 ppm		4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

### Disinfectant Residuals Summary

	Year Sampled	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest RAA)	Range		MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	N	0.3 ppm	0.3-0.3 ppm		4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

### Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Compliance - Based upon Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)						N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location (Ex. B01)								
	2019	N	N/D					
HAA5 (ppb)						N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location (Ex. B01)								
	2019	N	N/D					

### Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Compliance - Based upon Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)						N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location (Ex. B01)								
	2020	N	4.38 ppm	4.38-4.38 ppm				
HAA5 (ppb)						N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Location (Ex. B01)								
	2020	N	N/D					

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.

**Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low/High	SMCL
Iron (ppm)	2/20/2019	0.318 ppm	0.250-0.318 ppm	0.3 mg/L
Sodium (ppm)	2/20/2019	92 ppm	25.5 – 28.6 ppm	N/A
pH	2/20/2019	6.5	6.8 – 7.1	6.5 to 8.5

**Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low/High	SMCL
Iron (ppm)	6/14/2016	0.28 ppm	0.25-0.28	0.3 mg/L
Sodium (ppm)	6/14/2016	20.2ppm	20.2-24.8	N/A
pH	6/14/2016	6.9	6.7-6.9	6.5 to 8.5

**Additional Monitoring of Other Contaminants**

The Town of Fairmont’s water was tested for Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) on October 22, 2020, Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) on September 17, 2020, and Microbiological Contaminants were tested three times a month in 2020 and all results were below detectable limits.