Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2014 Rough Branch Water System

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water is pumped up out of the ground by four wells located between Rough Branch Housing Project and the Blue Ridge Parkway. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or the source water assessment that has been completed concerning your water utility, or want to obtain a copy of this report, please contact the Water Plant Manager, Sheila Hyatt at 828-359-6750. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call Sabrina Hornbuckle 828-359-6100 to find out when the Cherokee Tribal Utilities Board has its next meeting.

Rough Branch Water System routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

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.

Water Conservation: Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development and pollution. The most cost effective way to protect our water resources is through conservation. For more information on water usage and conservation practices, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense for water conservation tips, facts, information, and online activities for you and your family. Small changes can make a big difference.

Did you know?

- The Rough Branch Water System has 63 metered connections.
- Water is the only substance that is found naturally on earth in three forms: liquid, gas and solid.
- Water leaves the stomach five minutes after consumption.

 Americans use five times the amount of water that Europeans use.

www.epa.gov

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 storm water 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 storm water 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, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

General Drinking Water Information:
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.

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.

Additional Information Regarding Lead: In 1992 EPA created new standards for acceptable levels of lead and copper in drinking water. 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 Rough Branch Community Well System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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.

Immuno-compromised persons:
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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Definitions	
Not Applicable (NA)	Does not apply
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 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 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
Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)	A measure of radioactivity
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Turbidity (NTU)	The measurement of the cloudiness of water

TEST RESULTS TABLE

Contaminant And Unit of Measurement	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Date of Sample	Likely Source of Contamination
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	NO	1.87	0.000 – 2.00 pCi/l	N/A	15	04/02/14	By-product of drinking water Chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium	NO	0.013	N/A	2	2	04/11/14	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	NO	0.033 is the 90th percentile 3 of the 20 sites exceeded the AL		1.3	AL=1.3	01/14/2014 Or 08/14/2014	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	NO	0.0040 None of the 20 sites exceeded the AL		0	AL=15	01/14/2014 Or 08/14/2014	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be

reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We work hard at the Rough Branch Water System to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and must be preserved for our children's future.