## 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Okatoma Water Association, Inc. PWS#: 0640009 & 0640022 April 2018

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Catahoula, Miocene and Citronelle Aquifers.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identified potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Okatoma Water Association have received a lower to higher susceptibility ranking to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael Speed at 601.733.2363. 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 on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at 1970 SCR 45, Mt. Olive, MS 39119.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2017, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 also come from gas stations 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 Disinfectant Level (MRDL)* – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)* – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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 - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

PWS ID # 0640009				TEST RESULTS				
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination

## **Inorganic Contaminants**

morganic	Conta	mmanu	•						
10. Barium	N	2016*	.047	.027047	pp	om	2	2	2 Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
17. Lead	N	2014/16	6 0	0	pp	b	0	AL=15	<ul> <li>Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits</li> </ul>
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2017	6.78	2.38 - 6.78	pp	om	10	10	<ul> <li>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits</li> </ul>
Disinfectio	n By-	Product	S						
81. HAA5	N	2016*	2	No Range	ppb	0		60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2016*	1.16	No Range	ppb	0		80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	Ν	2017	.9	.5 – 1.3	mg/l	0	MD	RL = 4	Water additive used to control

microbes

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	or Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic	Contam	inants						
10. Barium	N	2017	.081	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	Ν	2017	1.3	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
16. Fluoride	N	2017	.288	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; wate additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2014/16*	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2017	1.66	.42 – 1.66	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile O	rganic (	Contamir	nants					
76. Xylenes	N	2017	1.74	1.21- 1.747	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
Disinfection	on By-Pr	oducts						
Chlorine	N 2	2017 1	.5	i0 – 1.60 n	ng/l	0 MDF	RL = 4 V	ater additive used to control

\* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2017

\*\* Fluoride level is routinely adjusted to the MS State Dept of Health's recommended level of 0.6 - 1.3 mg/l.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did complete the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed no coliform present. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

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. Our 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 Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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.

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 1.800.426.4791.

## \*\*\*\* Special Notice Concerning Nitrate Sample Results\*\*\*\*

The nitrate samples for Okatoma Water Association #1 (PWSID MS 0640009) ranged from 2.38 ppm to 6.78 ppm during 2017. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short period s of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

The Okatoma Water Association, Inc. works around the clock 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 our children's future.

Please Note: this report is being published in the local newspaper, copies will not be mailed unless requested.