Lowcountry Regional Water System
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2013

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the Lowcountry Regional Water System (LRWS) to provide safe drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

If you have any questions about this report please contact Caskell Hudson at **803-943-1006.**

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 board meetings. They are held on **the Forth Tuesday of each month at 4 pm at the conference room of the Hampton County Administration Building.** Our Source Water Assessment Plan is available for your review at www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srcewtr.html if you do not have Internet access; please contact Caskell Hudson at 803-943-1006 to make arrangements to review this document.

Mandatory Statements:

The following mandatory statements are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to appear in this Annual Water Quality Report, regardless of the results of water quality monitoring. These statements must appear in all Annual Water Quality Reports for all publicly regulated drinking water providers in the United States.

Source of Drinking Water:
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 pickup 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and grease production, mining or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residual 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 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.

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.**

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount certain contaminates in water provide by the public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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).**

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. LRWS 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 drinking 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.

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 ground water. ***Our wells draw directly or indirectly from the Floridian Aquifer through sub aquifers.*** All wells are treated with Chlorine gas or Sodium Hypochlorite solution for disinfection purposes. All chemical dosing is strictly regulated by the EPA and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

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 for the Water Quality Test Results:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – Or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – Or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
NA: Not applicable.
ND: Not Detected.
Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below there is no known or expected risk to health, MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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 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 for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.
Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Water Quality Test Results

Regulated Contaminants for Town of Brunson System Number *2510004*

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (2013)	N	0.44 Range 0.44-0.44	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Definitions:

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin safety.

Lead and Copper	MCLG	Violation Y/N	90th percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over action level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2013)	1.3	N	0.15	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (2013)	N	0.91 range 0.07 -0.91	ppm	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminants for Town of Gifford System Number *2510009*

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (2013)	N	0.79 range 0.08 -0.79	ppm	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)* 2011	N	1.54 range 1.54-1.54	ppb	MCL 60	No goal for the total	By product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) 2011	N	1.55 range 1.55-1.55	ppb	MCL 80	No goal for the total	By product of drinking water disinfection.

* Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Regulated Contaminants for Town of Hampton System Number *2510001*

Inorganic

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (2010)	N	0.57 Range 0.52-0.57	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Definitions:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin safety.

Lead and Copper	MCLG	Violation Y/N	90th percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over action level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2013)	1.3	N	0.018	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (2013)	N	0.42 range 0.11 -0.42	ppm	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminants for Town of Varnville System Number *2510005*

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (2013)	N	0.51 range 0.06 -0.51	ppm	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)* 2012	N	1.69 range 0 - 1.69	ppb	MCL 60	No goal for the total	By product of drinking water disinfection.

* Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (2013)	N	1.0 Range 0.54-1.0	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Definitions:

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin safety.

Lead and Copper	MCLG	Violation Y/N	90th percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over action level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2011)	1.3	N	0.079	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Regulated Contaminants for Town of Yemassee System Number *2510006*

Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Chlorine (2013)	N	0.63 range 0.23 -0.63	ppm	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) 2013	N	8.85 range 8.01-8.85	ppb	MCL 80	No goal for the total	By product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)* 2013	N	5.22 range 4.91-5.22	ppb	MCL 60	No goal for the total	By product of drinking water disinfection.

* Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (2013)	N	0.47 Range 0.23-0.47	ppm	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Definitions:

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin safety.

Lead and Copper	MCLG	Violation Y/N	90th percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over action level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2012)	1.3	N	0.05	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (2012)	0	N	0	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

As you can see by the table, **our systems had no violations**. 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. The EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE** at these levels.

Copies of our Annual Drinking Water Report are available at the Lowcountry Regional Water System's office at 513 Elm St. Hampton, SC during normal working hours,