2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
BROAD RIVER WATER AUTHORITY
Rutherford County, N.C.

PWS ID# 01-81-035

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Broad River Water Authority (BRWA) is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The BRWA consists of a local board of eight members. Two members are from Rutherford County and two members each from the towns of Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Ruth. **As of January 2026,** these members were: **Danny Searcy (Chairman), Jamie Guillermo (Vice-Chairman), Jenny Piper (Treasurer),** Stan Clements, Steve Garrison, David Guy, Brandon Harrill and **Scott Webber**. The water system is managed and operated by Maria Hunnicutt (Executive Director), Reid Hammett (Distribution Superintendent) and Brad Joyner (Water Plant Superintendent). Our mission statement is "Broad River Water Authority provides valuable drinking water services that are essential to our community's health, environment, and economy through the stewardship of infrastructure and natural resources."

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your source(s) 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 Brad Joyner at 828-287-7776. 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 the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00am at our main office 112 N. Main St. Rutherfordton, NC.

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

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 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, urban storm water 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.

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 Broad River Water Authority 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 Dustin Guyer, Water Plant Assistant Superintendent at 828-287-7776.
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.**

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is surface water from the Broad River. The Broad River originates in the Hickory Nut Gorge area, above Lake Lure, N.C., and flows southeast through Rutherford County.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), 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 relative susceptibility rating of the source for Broad River Water Authority 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 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
Broad River	Moderate	September 9, 2020

The complete SWAP Assessment report for the Broad River Water Authority may be viewed on the Web at: **https://www.ncwater.org/SWAP_Reports/NC0181035_SWAP_Report-20200909.pdf** To obtain a printed copy of this report, please mail a written request to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1634, or email request to swap@ncdenr.gov. Please indicate your system name, PWSID, 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 systems' potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area

Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source(s) in several ways: (examples: dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center, volunteer in your community to participate in group efforts to protect your source, etc.).

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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 (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.

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.

Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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 trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/L) - One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variances and Exceptions – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or Treatment Technique under certain conditions.

Water Quality Data Table 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, 2025.** The EPA or the State requires 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.

Lead and Copper Contaminants

The table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please email Dustin Guyer, Water Treatment Plant Assistant Superintendent at dustin@ncbrwa.com							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	Range Low	Range High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90th percentile)	July-Sept 2023	0.12	0	<0.050	.170	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppm) (90th percentile)	July-Sept 2023	ND	0	<0.003	.014	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Note: Next Lead & Copper Sampling Due 2026

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and prepared an inventory of all service lines in our water system. To access this inventory, contact Reid Hammett Distribution Superintendent at 828-286-0640.

Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (LRAA)	Range Low	Range High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	Quarterly 2025	N	35	11	73	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]	Quarterly 2025	N	28	18	45	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
For TTHM: Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. ***For HAA5: Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.***								

Disinfection Residuals Summary

	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range Low	Range High	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.10	.20	1.96	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Nitrate/Nitrite Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	02/04/25	N	.11	N/A		10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	02/04/25	N	.11	N/A		1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Inorganics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	**February 2025**	N	**.67**	**N/A**		4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Fluoride level is controlled at approximately .70 ppm with the annual average being **0.67** ppm.								

Turbidity*

Contaminant (units)	Treatment Technique (TT) Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	Treatment Technique (TT) Violation if:	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU) - Highest single turbidity measurement	N	.1 NTU	N/A	Turbidity > 1 NTU	Soil runoff
Turbidity (%) - Lowest monthly percentage (%) of samples meeting turbidity limits	N	100 %	N/A	Less than 95% of monthly turbidity measurements are ≤ 0.3 NTU	
***** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU.					

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL/TT Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (TOCs)-RAW	Quarterly **2025**	N	**1.42**	**1.08**	**2.00**	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (TOCs)-TREATED	Quarterly **2025**	N	**.28**	**<1.0**	**1.14**	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Depending on the TOC in our source water the system MUST have a certain % removal of TOC or must achieve alternative compliance criteria. If we do not achieve that % removal there is an "alternative % removal". If we fail to meet that, we are in violation of a Treatment Technique. Our water has a very low TOC content. Instead of using the % removal criteria we use an Alt 2 (alternative 2), treated water TOC <2.0 mg/l, as the method to comply with d/DBP treatment technique requirements.								

Microbiological Contaminants in the Distribution System

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Number of Positive/Present Samples	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
E. coli (presence or absence)	N	0	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli* Note: If either an original routine sample and/or its repeat samples(s) are *E. coli* positive, a Tier 1 violation exists.	Human and animal fecal waste
E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.					

Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	SMCL
Iron (ppm)	02/04/2025	< .06	N/A		0.3
Manganese (ppm)	02/04/2025	ND	N/A		0.05
Nickel (ppm)	02/04/2025	ND	N/A		N/A
Sodium (ppm)	02/04/2025	4.8	N/A		N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	02/04/2025	24.0	N/A		250
pH	02/04/2025	7.30	N/A		6.5 to 8.5

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.

Special information from the EPA

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. Broad River Water Authority 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.

What If I Have Any Questions or Would Like to Become More Involved?

If you have any questions about this report or questions concerning your water quality, please contact Brad Joyner at 828-287-7776. 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 monthly Board meetings. They are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For time and location, you may call 828-286-0640.