



# 2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Fort Lee District  
PWS ID: VA3149247



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

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

## A Message from the Virginia American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

Virginia American Water is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share with you good news about the quality of your drinking water. Each year, we provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report – and like so many years prior -- we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality regulations for **about a penny per gallon— an exceptional value.**



This is no small task. Quite a lot goes into bringing that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. Our treatment plant operators, water quality experts, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Delivering high-quality, reliable water service to your tap around the clock also requires significant investment in our water infrastructure to upgrade aging facilities. In 2015 alone, we invested \$16.1 million in water system improvements statewide.

We do this because we believe we're delivering more than just water service. We deliver a key resource for public health, fire protection, the economy and overall quality of life. Our job is to ensure that quality water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's part of our commitment to you and the communities we serve.

We hope you agree, it's worth every penny and worth learning more about. Please, take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using the data from water quality testing conducted for your local water system from January through December 2015.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Barry Suits, P.E.

President



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WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.®

## Information on the Internet

Virginia American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to more than 350,000 people.

American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. Marking its 130th anniversary this year, the company employs 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality have web sites that provide complete and current information on water issues in Virginia. These web sites are located at ([www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)) and ([www.deq.state.va.us](http://www.deq.state.va.us)). All these web sites have numerous links that will direct you to other professional organizations, public education and public health topics related to water.

## Protecting Your Water Source

The Source Water Assessment Program is a result of the 1996 amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Those amendments require all states to establish a program to assess the vulnerability of public water systems to potential contamination. While Fort Lee is classified as a consecutive water system, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Water Programs, performed a source water assessment of the Appomattox and James Rivers in 2001 for the Hopewell District. This assessment consisted of defining the drainage-watershed area, provided an inventory of known land use activity, and identified any known contamination that occurred within the last five years within a five mile radius of our water intakes. The report became available in the year 2002, and is the first step in the preparation of a Source Water Protection Program. The following paragraphs which have been prepared by the Virginia Department of Health are required to be included in the CCR.

“The Virginia Department of Health conducted a Source Water Assessment of the Appomattox and James Rivers in 2001. The rivers were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the Source Water Assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities and potential sources of contamination of concern, best management practices utilized at land use activity sites in zone 1, documentation of any known contamination within the last five years, susceptibility explanation chart, and definitions of key terms. The report is available by contacting your waterworks system owner at (804) 446-9822.”

“The Virginia Department of Health conducted a Source Water Assessment of the ARWA source water during 2002. Lake Chesdin (Appomattox River) was determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination, using criteria developed by the State in its EPA-approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, and inventory of known land use activities of concern and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years from the date of the assessment. The report is available by contacting Dr. Robert Wichser at (804) 590-1145.

## What Is a Water Quality Report?

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

To comply with Virginia Department of Health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, Virginia American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to provide you an overview of last year's (2015) drinking water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. We hope the report will raise your understanding of drinking water issues and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources.

## Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of Virginia American Water and therefore do not receive this report directly.



## Where Does My Water Come From?

In April 2001, the Virginia American Water Company acquired ownership and is the current operator of the water system at the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Lee, Virginia. Virginia American Water customers at Fort Lee enjoy an abundant water supply from two major surface water treatment plants. Fort Lee is a consecutive water system. That is, the drinking water that enters the base is supplied from other treatment facilities outside the installation. Currently, water is supplied from both the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) in Petersburg, and Virginia American Water (VAWC) in Hopewell. For the Hopewell District, the water is withdrawn from the Appomattox River, at the confluence with the James River. The combined drainage area of these two watersheds is approximately 9,000 squares miles. Lake Chesdin, which is supplied by the Appomattox River, is the water source for the Appomattox River Water Authority. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to U.S. EPA's Search Your Watershed at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### Other Drinking Water Constituents You May Be Interested In Are As Follows:

The sodium concentration in the sample collected from Virginia American Water plant effluent was 21.2 ppm. These concentrations exceed the recommended maximum contaminant level guidance of 20 ppm for persons on a "strict" sodium intake diet.

## Water Quality: What You Can Do

Everyone can play a role in improving the health of the source water and the Chesapeake Bay watershed:

- Avoid overuse of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, which contribute to the growth of algae that can cause taste and odor in drinking water.
- Clean up after your pet so the rain won't wash pet waste into the watershed through storm sewers.
- Dispose of pharmaceutical and personal care products in the trash, not down the toilet.
- Properly dispose of chemicals, paints and hazardous waste products so they don't enter the watershed through storm sewers.
- If you have a boat, keep it clean to avoid bringing algae, dirty water or contaminants into your marina.

Support regulations and other efforts to reduce nutrients in the watershed.

## Lead Education Statement

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. Virginia American Water 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 two minutes before using the 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Special Health Information

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 may 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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## Water Information Sources

**Virginia American Water:**

[www.amwater.com/vaaw](http://www.amwater.com/vaaw)

**Virginia Department of Health:**

[www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**American Water Works Association:**

[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

**National Library of Medicine/National Institute of Health:**

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus)

## Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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, or wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Opportunities for Public Participation

Virginia American Water does not schedule regular meetings for public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. However when public participation is required, meetings would be announced in the local newspaper and information would be posted on our website ([www.amwater.com/vaaw](http://www.amwater.com/vaaw)).

## Why does my water sometimes have a chlorine taste and odor?

Periodically, you may notice the taste and odor of chlorine in your water. Virginia American Water uses free chlorine instead of the less noticeable combined chlorine (chloramines) as a disinfectant during distribution system flushing. Free chlorine provides the best method of disinfection, during the water main flushing program done each year, to maintain a high level of water quality. Keeping an open container of drinking water in the refrigerator allows the chlorine to dissipate, which usually improves the taste of the water. Change the water in your refrigerated container weekly.



## How to Read the Data Tables

Virginia American Water conducts extensive monitoring. The results of our monitoring are reported in the accompanying tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2015, certain substances are only monitored once every three to nine years because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2015 but may be a prior year. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Average Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

## Table Definitions and Abbreviations

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.
- **MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of disinfectant routinely allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of 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 contamination.
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detected
- **NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter. 1 ppm = 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10,000.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter. 1 ppb = 1 minute in 2,000 years or 1 penny in \$10,000,000.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

**Definition:** Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted.

The list of unregulated contaminants applicable for monitoring during 2013-2016 under the unregulated contaminants monitoring rule 3 is located on EPA's website at: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/index.cfm>

## Water Quality Statement

For your information, we have compiled a list in the table, showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2015. We feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. For information concerning our results, please contact Water Quality Supervisor, Kelly Ryan, at (804) 446-9822.



# Fort Lee Water Quality 2015

## Regulated Substances (from the treatment facilities)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled <sup>1</sup>	MCL	MCLG	ARWA		VAWC		Violation	Typical Source
				Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels	Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels		
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	2014 ARWA 2015 VAWC	15	0	<0.6	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.027	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Discharge of drilling waste and, metal refineries
Beta emitters (pCi/L) <sup>2</sup>	2014 ARWA 2015 VAWC	50	0	4.9 ± 0.8	NA	3.4	NA	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2015	4	4	0.68	0.01 - 1.31	0.63	NA	No	Added to water to promote healthy teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	2015	10	10	0.3	NA	0.11	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizer use
Radium (pCi/L)	2014 ARWA 2015 VAWC	5	0	<0.6	NA	3.9	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TOC	2015	TT	NA	1.35	1.25 - 1.46	1.20	1.16 - 1.23	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>3</sup>	2015	TT = 1 NTU	NA	0.615	NA	0.450	NA	No	Soil erosion and runoff
		Percent of readings ≤ 0.3 NTU on a monthly basis	NA	99.95% of readings ≤ 0.3 NTU	NA	99.86% of readings ≤ 0.3 NTU	NA		
Chlorine Dioxide (ppm) <sup>4</sup>	2015	MRDL = 0.8	MRDLG = 0.8	0.19	-0.12 - 0.19	NA	NA	No	Additive used to control microbes; Used during pre-treatment only

<sup>1</sup> Year Sampled: The state requires monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

<sup>2</sup> Beta/Photon emitters: The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is written as 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity: 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. During the reporting year, a minimum of 99.3% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

<sup>4</sup> Chlorine Dioxide: Is a calculated value, when the chlorine dioxide level is low in the finished water, the concentration will sometimes be a negative number.

## Disinfection By-Products (from the distribution system)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected <sup>5</sup>	Range of Detected Levels <sup>6</sup>	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic acids (HAAs)	2015	60	NA	14.6	7.2 - 22.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	80	NA	48.58	18.6 - 66.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite (ppm)	2015	1.0	0.8	0.25	ND - 0.26	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Trihalomethanes: 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 system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>5</sup> Amount detected is the locational running annual average of the 4 Stage 2 compliance sample sites

<sup>6</sup> The range is determined using all compliance sites

## Regulated Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from 30 homes on Base)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Number of Samples Over Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2014	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.141	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2014	AL = 15	0	<1	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Bacteriological Results (from the distribution system)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Coliform (number of positive samples)	2015	1 positive monthly sample	0	0	Yes	Bacteria naturally present in the environment
Chlorine/Chloramine Residual	2015	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	Range: 0.4 - 3.4 Average: 1.93	Yes	Additive used to control microbes

## Unregulated Substances (from the distribution system)<sup>7</sup>

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	ARWA		VAWC		Typical Source
		Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels	Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels	
Bromide (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	0.02	ND - 0.02	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	2.0	ND - 2.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	14.3	3.4 - 14.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorate (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	0.61	ND - 0.61	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	48.7	15.2 - 48.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	3.9	ND - 3.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	12.0	4.1 - 12.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	3.1	ND - 3.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2015	NA	NA	8.9	2.4 - 8.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>7</sup> Unregulated Substances (from the distribution system) are results from disinfection by-product sampling locations.

## Other Unregulated Substances (from the treatment facilities)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	ARWA		VAWC		Typical Source
		Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels	Amount Detected	Range of Detected Levels	
Calcium (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	14	NA	Naturally occurring
Magnesium (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	3	NA	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	21.2	NA	Naturally occurring and water treatment additive
Giardia (cysts/L)	2015	NA	NA	0.400	ND - 0.400	Organism naturally present in the environment
Cryptosporidium (oocyst/L)	ARWA: 2015 VAWC: 2015	0.019	NA	0.178	ND - 0.178	Organism naturally present in the environment
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2015	3.6	NA	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2015	25	NA	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
MTBE (ppb)	2015	<5.0	NA	NA	NA	Leaking underground gasoline storage tanks
Zinc (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	0.134	NA	Water treatment additive
Sulfate (ppm)	2015	26.7	NA	32.5	NA	Erosion of natural deposits and water treatment additive
Chloride (ppm)	2015	NA	NA	16.6	NA	Naturally occurring
Chlorite (ppm)	2015	0.57	ND - 0.57	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2015	3.16	0.70 - 3.8	3.98	0.20 - 3.98	Additive used to control microbes; Values reported for ARWA are from distribution system prior to Ft Lee entry point

## Unregulated Substances (from the distribution system and treatment facility) UCMR3

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected <sup>5</sup>	Range of Detected Levels <sup>6</sup>	Typical Source
Strontium (ug/L)	2014	43.2	38.3 - 43.2	Soil Runoff
Vanadium (ug/L)	2014	0.5	0.3 - 0.5	Discharge from power plants; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium VI (ug/L)	2014	0.07	0.05 - 0.07	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
Chlorate (ug/L)	2014	470	ND - 470	By Product of disinfection





**There's a lot more  
to your water bill  
than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future. All for less than a penny a gallon.



**WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.  
FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD, TOO, at [amwater.com](http://amwater.com).**

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