Where does your water come from?

The Neosho River augmented by Council Grove Reservoir supplies the City with an adequate supply of water for the future. An assessment of our source water has been completed. For the results of the assessment, please contact us or download the results at www.kche.state.ks.us/rps.

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 before it reaches you include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salt and metals, which can naturally occur 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 and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- 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.

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. We treat our water according to EPA’s regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Total Coliform Rule (TCR) - Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. During 2013, we collected twenty-five samples per month. All samples were in compliance.

Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Your Right to Know

Water is one of the most vital elements in our lives, so we must have confidence in its safety and quality.

The U.S. Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, and reauthorized it in 1986 and 1996. The EPA and states develop and enforce drinking water regulations to protect public health. Emporia’s drinking water meets or surpasses these standards.

Commonly Asked Water Quality Questions

What are Cryptosporidium and Giardia?
Is our Water supply at risk?

Cryptosporidium and Giardia are protozoan parasites that occur in natural surface waters such as lakes, rivers and streams.

Ingesting Cryptosporidium oocysts can cause an illness called Cryptosporidiosis. Symptoms of this illness include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, fever and headache.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as a person 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Water Plant Personnel collects samples from the Water Treatment facility and in the City’s water distribution system.

Regulatory requirements for the collection of Lead and Copper became effective in 1992 for semi-annual sampling. Follow-up monitoring for Lead and Copper was conducted in 2016.

Because of our successful treatment process, we have shown through past sampling Lead and Copper is not a problem in Emporia. Therefore, we are on the reduced monitoring program of testing once every three years.

Do the City test the drinking water for Lead and Copper?

How can Lead and Copper get into your water?

What is the City doing?

The Water Plant Personnel collects samples from the Water Treatment facility and in the City’s water distribution system.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your 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.

Current regulations provide a treatment technique for Giardia removal and inactivation under the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). There is no current regulation for Cryptosporidium.
TOURS Available Upon Request

Terms & Abbreviations

**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 contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs to allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce levels of contaminates in drinking water.

**N/A:** not applicable

**ND:** non detect at testing

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

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**Water At Your Service**

**Mission:**

Provide the City and the surrounding area we serve with an adequate supply of clean, safe, drinking water and properly return this precious resource back to the environment so that its life-sustaining properties can be utilized for generations to come.

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