Well Water Contaminants in Polk County

Contaminant	Drinking Water Standard	Private Well Water Test Results					
		Total wells tested	Number of wells tested above standard	Percentage (%) of wells tested above standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)							
Arsenic	10	395	0	0%	0.71	9	3.05
Barium	2000	279	0	0%	70.71	300	72.78
Beryllium	4	4	0	0%	1.41	2.12	1.94
Cadmium	5	320	0	0%	0.71	3.54	0.88
Chromium	100	279	0	0%	0.71	7.07	7.05
Copper	1300	285	4	1.4%	7.07	2200	90.12
Lead	15	401	16	3.99%	3.54	162	5.62
Mercury	2	231	0	0%	0.35	0.35	0.35
Nitrate	10000	195	0	0%	707.11	2400	782.87
Nitrite	1000	195	0	0%	70.71	70.71	70.71
Selenium	50	279	0	0%	3.54	45	3.7
Uranium	30	0	-	-	-	-	-
NC 2L Groundwater							
Barium	700	279	0	0%	70.71	300	72.78
Boron	700	1	0	0%	70.71	70.71	70.71
Cadmium	2	320	19	5.94%	0.71	3.54	0.88
Chromium	10	279	0	0%	0.71	7.07	7.05
Cobalt	1	1	0	0%	0.71	0.71	0.71
Nickel	100	1	0	0%	7.07	7.07	7.07
Zinc*	1000	277	17	6.14%	35.36	14000	344.01
Health Advisory							
Iron*	2500 (DEQ)	279	54	19.35%	70.71	24000	457.64
Manganese*	300 (EPA)	395	56	14.18%	7.07	700	33.68
Sodium	20000 (EPA)	263	260	98.86%	707.11	73300	6225.94
State Health Goal							
Hexavalent Chromium	0.07	1	0	0%	0.04	0.04	0.04
Thallium	0.2	4	3	75%	0.07	1.41	1.08
Vanadium	0.3	1	0	0%	0.14	0.14	0.14

Contaminant levels are measured in micrograms per liter (μg/L), which is equal to parts per billion (ppb). Note: Copper and Lead standards are called "Action Levels".

*The EPA also has a nuisance standard for aesthetic effects caused by these contaminants, however, this table uses the health-based standard.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that the US EPA allows in drinking water supplied by public utilities. An MCL takes into consideration the best available treatment technology and associated costs along with health risk. More information about MCL standards: https://bit.ly/epa-MCL.

NC 2L Groundwater: Set by NC DEQ as the highest level of a contaminant allowed in groundwater, which may be tolerated without creating a threat to human health or which would otherwise make the groundwater unsuitable for its intended best usage, such as a drinking water. Note: Barium, Cadmium, and Chromium have different standards under state and federal regulations; both are included in this table. More information about NC 2L Groundwater standards: https://bit.ly/nc2Lgw.

Health Advisory: In the absence of federal standards, the US EPA and state agencies can issue advisories to communicate the level of a contaminant in drinking water at which harmful health and/or aesthetic effects are not anticipated to occur over a specific period of time.

State Health Goal: In the absence of state and federal standards, level established by NC DHHS to communicate to private well users the risk associated with using their well water.

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