**2015 Annual Drinking Water Report**

**SCDHEC Public Water System ID# 2910001**

**For Information please Contact:**

**City of Lancaster**

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**Spanish (Espanol)**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre el agque usted bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Is my water safe?**

Last year, your tap water met most U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Total coli-form bacteria were found in our drinking water during the month of July in enough samples to violate a standard. Coli-forms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coli-forms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Where does my water come from?**

Raw water is pumped from the Catawba River into a 23-acre lake at the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (CRWTP) at 5107 Riverside Road. From the lake, the raw water is pumped into the water treatment facility for treatment including settling, coagulation & sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. From the CRWTP, water is pumped through the Lancaster County Water & Sewer District (LCW&SD) to the City. The City purchases all of their water from the LCW&SD.

**Source water assessment and its availability**

Our Source Water Assessment Plan is available for your review through a freedom of information request at **www.scdhec.gov/homeandenvironment/water/sourcewaterprotection**. If you do not have internet access, please contact Mike Bailes, CRWTP Director, at (803) 286-5949 to make arrangements to review this document or the LCW&SD at (803) 285-6919 or 1-800-832-2126 from 8 am to 5 pm.

**How can I get involved?**

The City holds City Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at City Hall located at 216 S. Catawba Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

**Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.

**Why are there contaminants in my 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Additional Information for Lead**

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. City of Lancaster 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>.