

# ***2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report***

## ***Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority***

Water System Number: NC6054001

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

### **Introduction**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. 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 Jacob Brown at (252) 522-2567. 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 at NRWASA WTP bimonthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:00PM.**

### **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 microbial 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems

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. **Neuse Regional Water & Sewer 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 **Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority, ATTN: Robin Blackburn, (252) 522-2567**. 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>.

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 Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority directly at (252) 522-2567**.

## When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is Neuse River **surface water** and is located at **La Grange, NC**.

## Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), 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 each source for **Neuse Regional Water & Sewer 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 well or 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   |
| Neuse River                                                       | [HIGHER]              | September 10, 2020 |

The complete SWAP Assessment report for **Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority** may be viewed on the Web at: <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600> Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this website may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to [swap@deq.nc.gov](mailto:swap@deq.nc.gov). Please indicate your system name, number, 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 system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

## Help Protect Your Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. We have implemented the following source water protection actions:

- streambank stabilization
- development of emergency response plans
- public education at relevant social events
- best management practices for stormwater control.

## Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

During 2025, or during any compliance period that ended in 2025, we received no violations.

### **Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

***Herbicide*** – Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

***Pesticide*** – Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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

***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.

***PFAS Hazard Index*** – A calculation used to determine toxicity-weighted combined risk potential for certain unnatural compounds currently found in US waters.

***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.

## Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for each 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 and the State allow 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.

### Inorganic Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | Sample Date | MCL Violation Y/N | Your Water | Range<br>Low    High | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination                                                                                            |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fluoride (ppm)      | 3/11/2025   | N                 | 0.8        | 0.8                  | 4    | 4   | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

### 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                                      | .16 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 $\leq$ 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)                                 | TT Violation Y/N | Your Water (lowest RAA) | Range Monthly Removal Ratio Low - High | MCLG | Treatment Technique (TT) violation if:                                   | Likely Source of Contamination       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal Ratio (no units) | N                | 1.04                    | 1.04 – 1.68                            | N/A  | Removal Ratio RAA < 1.00 and alternative compliance criteria was not met | Naturally present in the environment |

**Promulgated Contaminants (PFAS)**

| Contaminant (acronym)                 | Range (ppt) |      | MCL              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------|------------------|
|                                       | Low         | High |                  |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)         | 3.9 – 7.0   |      | 4.0              |
| Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)  | 6.1 - 9.8   |      | 4.0              |
| Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)         | ND – 0.90   |      | 1.0 Hazard Index |
| Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) | 2.5 - 5.9   |      | 1.0 Hazard Index |
| Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)  | 2.6 – 4.8   |      | 1.0 Hazard Index |

**Non-Regulated Contaminants (PFAS)**

| Contaminant (acronym)                    | Range (ppt) |      |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|------|
|                                          | Low         | High |
| Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)            | 4.5 - 34    |      |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)          | 1.6 – 3.1   |      |
| Bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)amine (TFSI) | ND – 2.0    |      |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)           | 3.3 - 6.3   |      |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonamide (PFOSA)       | ND - 0.82   |      |
| Perfluoropentane sulfonic acid (PFPeS)   | 0.42 - 0.95 |      |
| Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)          | 3.2 - 7.7   |      |
| Perfluoropropanoic acid (PFPrA)          | 34 - 90     |      |

**Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants**

| Contaminant (units) | Sample Date | Your Water | Range<br>Low High | SMCL       |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Sodium (ppm)        | 3/11/2025   | 22.4       | 22.4              | N/A        |
| Sulfate (ppm)       | 3/11/2025   | 26         | 26                | 250        |
| pH                  | 7.8 – 7.89  |            |                   | 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.