This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the calendar year 2011 is designed to inform you of the primary sources of contaminants in your water, the presence of contaminants, and the steps taken to remove them. The Town of Amherst is responsible for providing you with water that is safe to drink. The primary source of drinking water is the Buffalo River. The Town is also responsible for ensuring that your drinking water is free from contaminants that may cause disease. Cryptosporidium is an intestinal illness caused by these microscopic parasites. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and cramps. Most healthy people can tolerate this infection and may experience only mild symptoms. Immuno-compromised individuals may become very sick and experience symptoms that may last for several days. The PMCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations to limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for the naturally occurring contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. 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, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can all be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions. Inorganic Contaminants

Radioactive Contaminants

Microbiological Contaminants

TURBIDITY: The amount of light scattered by the water is measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). N/A indicates that NTU were not tested. The Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) is a measure of concentration, corresponds to one minute in twenty years and is the measure of radioactivity. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The Town of Amherst 2011 CCR is not mailed to the Town’s water customers and users of the MCL. Water treatment plants are capable of causing disease. However, immune-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing illness-threatening disease. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease and it may remain in the water for many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The US EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. CRYPTOSPORIDIUM: A pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Filteration and disinfecton are the best methods for use against them, but 100% removal or inactivation cannot be guaranteed. Cryptosporidium is an intestinal illness caused by these microscopic parasites. The symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and cramps. Most healthy people can tolerate this infection and may experience only mild symptoms. Immuno-compromised individuals may become very sick and experience symptoms that may last for several days. The PMCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

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