

Beech Mountain Water Education/Information Sheet

Water Quality Standards

Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Quality Standards are established by the Safe Drinking Water Act. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations> are legally enforceable primary standards and treatment techniques that apply to public water systems. Primary Standards protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water which can cause adverse health effects. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) have been established for six categories of contaminants; Microorganisms, Disinfectants, Disinfection Byproducts, Inorganic Chemicals, Organic Chemicals and Radionuclides.

The following are examples of primary regulated contaminants in each category:

- Microorganisms – Cryptosporidium, Total Coliform
- Disinfectants – Chlorine, Chloramines
- Disinfection Byproducts – HAAS, THMs
- Inorganic Chemicals – Arsenic, Nitrate, Lead, Copper, Mercury, Fluoride, Chromium
- Organic Chemicals – Atrazine, Benzene, Styrene, Toluene
- Radionuclides – Radium 226, Radium 228

The National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals> are non-mandatory water quality standards for 15 contaminants which are not enforceable by the EPA. These Secondary Standards are guidelines for aesthetic characteristics like taste, color and odor and do not pose a health risk.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Public Water Supply Section, <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/drinking-water> regulates public water systems within the State. Beech Mountain must comply with both Federal and State Regulations in furnishing drinking water to its residents. The Town also regulates its water system by Town Ordinance.

[http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/North%20Carolina/beechemountain_nc/titlevpublicworks/chapter51waterandseweruse?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:beechemountain_nc\\$anc=JD_Chapter51](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/North%20Carolina/beechemountain_nc/titlevpublicworks/chapter51waterandseweruse?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:beechemountain_nc$anc=JD_Chapter51)