

City of Oakes

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Our water source is groundwater drawn from three wells in the Oakes Aquifer. The city of Oakes wants you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water sources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has completed a Source Water Assessment for the city of Oakes including the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has determined that our water source is "*moderately susceptible*" to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified. A copy of this assessment is available to the public upon request.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Chad Raatz, Maintenance Supervisor, at 701-742-2910 or Zasha Johnson, City Auditor, at 701-742-2137. 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. The city of Oakes regular council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Oakes Community Center. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Zasha at the number listed above.

The city of Oakes would appreciate it if large volume water customers would please post copies of the *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report* in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

The city of Oakes routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water per Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for inorganic contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Please call Zasha at 701-742-2137 if you have questions. The city of Oakes works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

(MRDLG) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

(MRDL) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Highest Compliance Level: The highest level of that contaminant used to determine compliance with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Range of Detections: The lowest to the highest result value recorded during the required monitoring timeframe for systems with multiple entry points.

Abbreviations: ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter; ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter; ppt - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter; ppq - parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter; NA - not applicable; ND - none detected; pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity), umho/cm = micromhos per centimeter (a measure of conductivity), obsvns = observations/field at 100 Power, IDSE = Initial Distribution System Evaluation

TEST RESULTS – OAKES CITY OF – ND1100758

Lead/Copper	Date	# Samples	Action Level (AL)	Level Detected	Units	Range	Violation Yes/No Other Info	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper	7/17/2024	10	1.3	0.195 90th Percentile	ppm	0.0506 to 0.219	0 Sites Exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	7/17/2024	10	15	No Detect 90th Percentile	ppb	ND to 1.30	0 Sites Exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants								
Chlorine	12/31/2024	MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4	1.1	ppm	0.65 to 1.33	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants	Date	MCL	MCLG	High Comp.	Units	Range		
Arsenic	3/11/2025	10	0	2.71	Ppb	N/A	No	
Barium	03/11/2025	2	2	0.02	Ppm	N/A		
Fluoride	03/11/2025	4	4	0.054	Ppm	N/A		
Nitrate/Nitrites	07/22/2025	10	10	1.85	ppm	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha, Incldng RA, Exclndg RN & U	10/29/2025	15	15	1.64	pCi/l	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, Combined (226, 228)	10/29/2025	5	N/A	1.305	pCi/l	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium, Combined	10/29/25	30	N/A	1.6	Ppb	N/A	No	
Unregulated Contaminants								
Alkalinity	3/11/2025			110	Ppm	n/a	No	
Bicarbonate as HCO3	3/11/2025			134	Ppm	n/a	No	
Calcium	3/11/2025			32.2	Ppm	n/a	No	
Chloride	3/11/2025			15.3	Ppm	n/a	No	
Conductivity@ 25 C UMHOS/CM	3/11/2025			329	umho/cm	n/a	No	
Hardness as CaCO3	3/11/2025			120	Ppm	n/a	No	
Magnesium	3/11/2025			9.59	Ppm	n/a	No	
PH	3/11/2025			7.87	PH	n/a	No	
Potassium	3/11/2025			2.6	Ppm	n/a	No	
Sodium	3/11/2025			17.6	Ppm	n/a	No	
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	3/11/2025			0.7	Obsvns	n/a	No	
Sulfate	3/11/2025			37.2	Ppm	n/a	No	
TDS	3/11/2025			178	Ppm	n/a	No	
Zinc	3/11/2025			0.0052	Ppm	n/a	No	

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (TTHM/HAA5)								
HAA5	12/31/2025	60	N/A	No Detect	ppb	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	12/31/2025	80	N/A	21	ppb	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Violation: Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) – Failure to Routine Monitor August 2025. Our water system is required to sample for Total Coliform bacteria on a monthly basis. We failed to collect the required number of total coliform samples during the month of August 2025 and are therefore unsure of the quality of the water at that time. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. The City of Oakes is taking steps to correct this violation of the Revised Total Coliform Rule by returning to a routine testing schedule.

Health Statements

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 effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's 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:

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. (Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.)

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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 and Prevention (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).

Lead Statement

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The city of Oakes is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home.

Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the city of Oakes at 701-742-2137. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Lead Service Line Inventory Information

US EPA has recently published the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The purpose of this revision is to strengthen public health protections by removing lead service lines within public water systems. One requirement of this rule revision was to inventory all drinking water service lines within our public water system and notify consumers which type of line serves each property. You may have recently received a letter from our system with this information.

The inventory is a listing of all service lines and the material composition of each line. The types of lines being documented are Lead lines, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) and lines made of Unknown Material. Classification of a service line as being comprised of Unknown Service Line material indicates that our system cannot currently confirm the material of both the public and private portions of the line with written records. Non-lead lines were also documented; however, we were not required to notify consumers with documented nonlead lines. The classification of the type of service line serving a residence was based on historical data regarding the property and in some cases verification of the type of material on the privately owned side of the line by visual inspection or replacement records of the owner.

The current Service Line Inventory for our system has been completed and is available for viewing at our office. Please contact the city of Oakes at 701-742-2137 should you have any questions.

Additional work to update the service line inventory, including inspection of the line, may need to be performed to further document and confirm the type of material making up both the public and private portions of the line serving your home or business. We will need the help of home/building owners in order to access the service line on the private side of the service line to positively identify the material of the line that carries water within your home/building. Our system may perform this work with our own system employees, or we may contract with engineering firms or third-party contractors to complete this work to improve our service line inventory.

