For this reason, some of the test results are more than one year old. EPA requires us to monitor for over 90 drinking water contaminants and those that were detected are listed in the table to the right.

Detected Contaminants

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

As part of a nationwide program, the North Dakota Department of Health completed an assessment of our source water and determined that our water system is moderately susceptible to potential contaminant sources. They also noted that “historically, Southwest Water Authority has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water standards.” Information about Source Water Assessment can be obtained by calling 1-888-425-0241, or e-mailing us at swa@swwater.com.

Drinking Water Safety

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). More information about drinking water is available on EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

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).

Detected Contaminants

EPA requires us to monitor for over 90 drinking water contaminants and those that were detected are listed in the table to the right. Test results are from 2012. The State does allow reduced monitoring for certain contaminants because their levels do not change significantly over time. For this reason, some of the test results are more than one year old.

Definitions and abbreviations:

- **Action Level or AL**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.
Ken Knight, Water Treatment Plant Operator

The Southwestern Water Authority is pleased to report that our water system was in compliance with all drinking water regulations in 2012. At Southwest Water Authority, our finished water is monitored to determine whether or not future regulation is warranted. To obtain information about these tests you may contact Sandy Burwick SWA CFO/Office Administrator at 888-241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com.

If you are aware of non-typical water quality events, such as water discoloration, discharges, or odors, please contact us at the number listed above for information on what to do when you experience such events.

You are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, which are posted on our website. Our meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity to learn more about the treatment process and other water-related topics.

We want you and all of our valued tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, to be informed about their water utility, therefore if you have any questions about this report or any other concerns, please contact Ken Knight, Water Treatment Plant Operator or Sandy Burwick SWA CFO/Office Administrator at 888-425-0241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com.

So the bottom line is this.

At Southwest Water Authority, our highest priority is your family’s health where drinking water is concerned. With that thought in mind, we are pleased to report that our water system was in compliance with all drinking water regulations in 2012. We want you and all of our valued customers to be informed about their water utility, therefore if you have any questions about this report or any other concerns, please contact Ken Knight, Water Treatment Plant Operator or Sandy Burwick SWA CFO/Office Administrator at 888-425-0241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com.

You are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, which are generally held on the first Monday of each month. If you are interested in attending or would like to request agenda time, please contact us at the number listed above for information on time and location. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need assistance with the appropriate language translation, please contact us at the number listed above. In order to allow individuals who consume our drinking water, but who do not receive water bills, to learn about our water system, we would appreciate it if our large volume water customers would post copies of this report in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees.

Southwest Pipeline Project