

Around Town

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**By Billy Ray McKelvy**

**De Queen Mayor**

The annual Consumer Confidence Report for the City of De Queen water system was published in last week's newspaper and, although this report is long and not easy to read, it gives high marks to the city's water

Here are a few highlights of the report. The De Queen water system was well under the limit for total coliform bacteria and turbidity. The level of coliform detected was one sample per month and two or more positive samples are allowable per month. Coliform is a bacteria that occurs naturally in the environment but it is removed during the treatment process.

Turbidity is a measurement of the clarity of water and soil runoff is the usual source. De Queen's raw water met turbidity limits on every test with a highest yearly result of .095. The highest allowable level is .3 in 5% of samples of 1 for any single sample.

The maximum allowable level of nitrate is 10 parts per million. De Queen's water tested at .08 ppm.

Water can contain lead and copper due to corrosion in household plumbing systems. De Queen's water was well under the limit on those items.

De Queen's water easily met the limit for chlorine and disinfection by-products.

The Cossatot River is the source of the city's drinking water. Although the water is sometimes muddy following rains, the dirt is easily removed with a minimum of treatment required.

A 16-ounce bottle of water would easily cost \$1.35 at a convenience store. But customers of the De Queen water system can buy 1,000 gallons of water for only \$1.05, plus tax.

If you have any questions about the quality of the city's water supply you may call City Hall at 584-3445.