

The City of Belmont's drinking water comes from the Catawba River and is treated at its water treatment plant before its customers use it for drinking, bathing, cooking, and other uses. The water treatment plant regularly tests the quality of the water in its system to ensure that it complies with all federal and state drinking water standards.

The City makes available an annual "Water Quality Report". This annual report is required by the EPA and NCDENR. The City notifies each water customer of this report and posts it on its website. The 2014 Water Quality Report showed that the "City of Belmont had no violations in 2014."

This Water Quality Report contains the testing results for a variety of contaminants that are detected in the City's drinking water. These tests show that although these contaminants are present in the drinking water, they meet all federal and state standards. There are other contaminants that the City tests for, but are not detected in our drinking water. Although the City is not required to post the results of tests for these contaminants that are not detected, these results are posted on the City's Water Treatment Plant website.

Over the past several months there have been concerns about possible contamination of groundwater wells on the South Point peninsula outside of the city limits, particularly with levels of Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium-6) and Vanadium. The City of Belmont is not required to test for these two substances in its drinking water. Due to the concerns about the levels of these two substances in groundwater, the City has tested our drinking water for them.

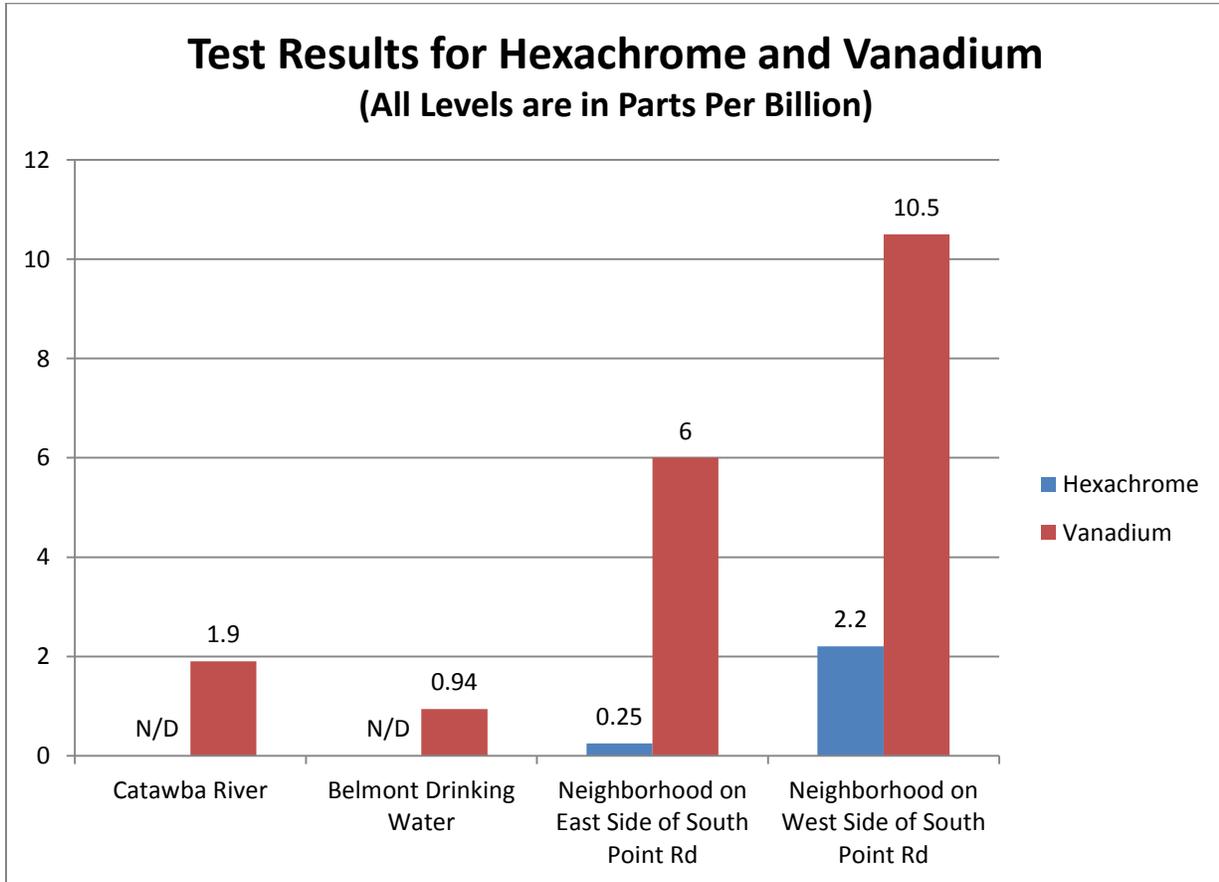
On August 3, city staff took a sample of raw water from the Catawba River and a sample of our treated drinking water and sent them to a testing laboratory in California to test for Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium-6) and Vanadium. Staff chose this laboratory due to its ability to test for these substances at a low enough level to detect the presence of these substances at the levels set forth as interim standards by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

The city staff received the results of these tests on August 17. The tests showed that there was no detectable level of Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium-6), and the reporting limit was 0.03 ppb (parts per billion parts) of Hexavalent Chromium. This means that if Hexachrome is present in our drinking water, it was in an amount that it could not be detected or found at the level of 0.03 ppb.

The tests also showed that there was 0.94 ppb of Vanadium. The testing limit for Vanadium was 0.2 ppb. There is no adopted federal or state safety standard for levels of Vanadium in drinking water, although the interim standard proposed by the NCDHHS is 0.3 ppb of Vanadium. By comparison, the testing laboratory that NCDENR is using for groundwater wells has a testing limit for Vanadium of 1.0 ppb.

The chart below shows the results of the test results for levels of Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium -6) and Vanadium in the raw water of the Catawba River, the City of Belmont treated drinking water, a neighborhood on the east side of South Point Road, and a

neighborhood on the west side of South Point Road. The results from these two neighborhoods were provided to the City by residents of those neighborhoods.



Note: N/D stands for “Non-Detectable,” meaning that the levels were not high enough to be detected by the testing laboratory.