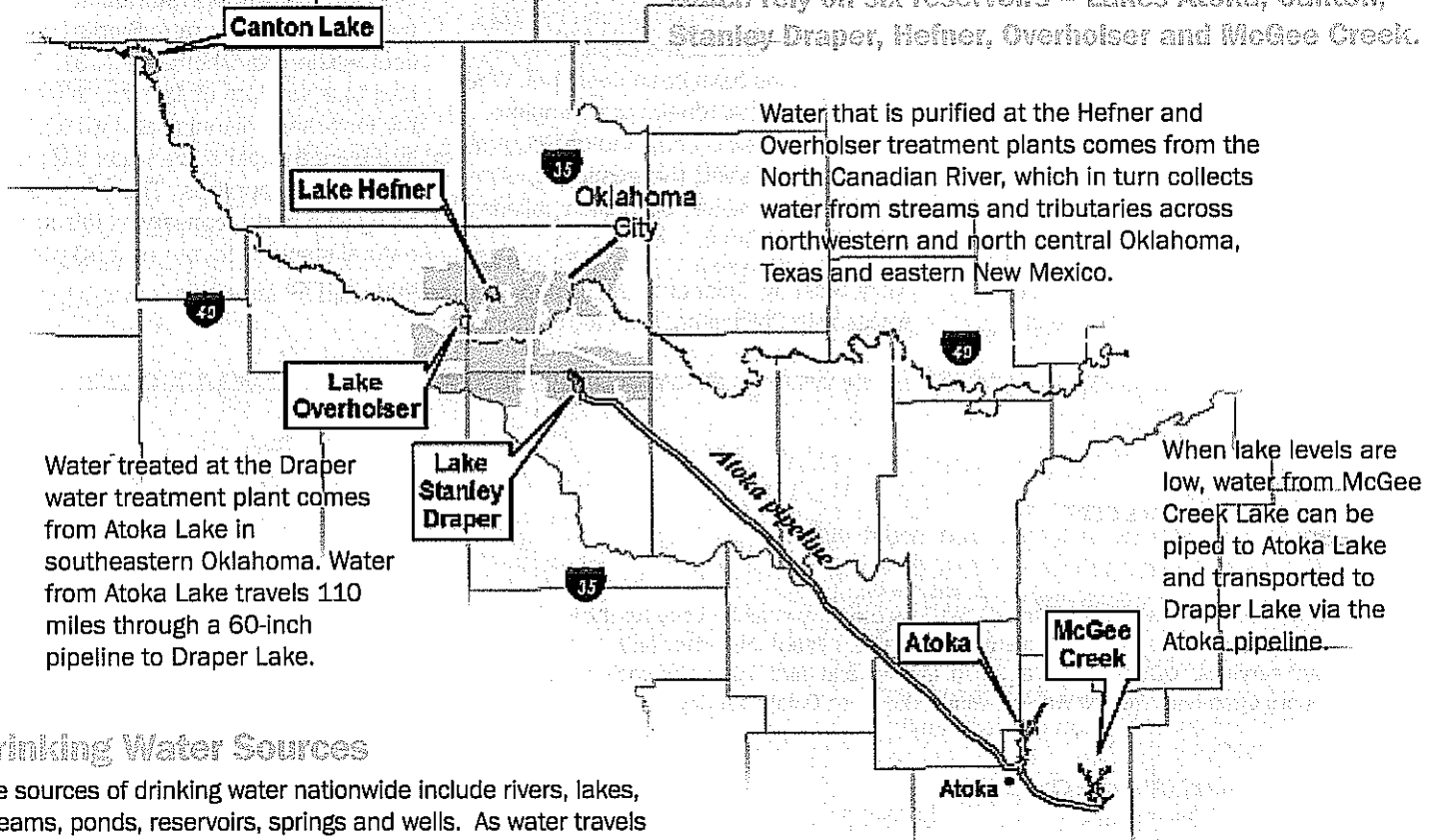


# Water Reservoirs, Treatment Plants

When rainfall is below normal, water from Canton Lake can be released into the North Canadian River to fill Hefner and Overholser Lakes.

Customers of the City of Oklahoma City Utilities receive drinking water from one of three water treatment plants – Draper, Hefner and Overholser – which rely on six reservoirs – Lakes Atoka, Canton, Stanley Draper, Hefner, Overholser and McGee Creek.



## Drinking Water Sources

The sources of drinking water nationwide include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Drinking water (including bottled water) may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The City of Oklahoma City treats and filters all water from reservoirs to remove any possible harmful contaminants according to State and Federal standards.

Contaminants that may be present in raw – or untreated – water include microbes (viruses and bacteria), inorganics (salts and metals) pesticides and herbicides (from various sources, including agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses), and radioactive materials that are naturally occurring.

The Environmental Protection Agency limits the amount of contaminants in water provided by public systems to ensure tap water is safe to drink. The Food and Drug Administration regulations limit contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same public health protection.

Some contaminants may cause color, taste or odor problems in water but are not necessarily causes for health concerns. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Source Water Assessment

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 require states to develop and implement Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water. Copies of these reports for Lakes Draper, Hefner and Overholser are available upon request.

## People with Health Concerns

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 healthcare providers. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* (an intestinal parasite that can be fatal in some immuno-compromised persons) and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.