

2023 BLUFFTON WATER DEPARTMENT

Bluffton Utilities Water Department

PWSID IN5290001

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the year, for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Sources of Drinking Water

Bluffton Utilities water department is Ground water. 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 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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

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. 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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns.

For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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/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).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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.

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

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: 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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

AVG: Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb: micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

na: not applicable.

Our water system tested a minimum of 10 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRD	MRDLG	Typical
Chlorine	2023	1	ppm	0.18-1.86	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminants

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Lead and Copper	Period	90 th Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of sampled results (low-high)	Unit	AL	Sites over AL	Typical source
Copper, Free	2022	0.319	0.0014 – 0.63	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	2022	3.2	0.51 - 16	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfection By-Products	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	1435 West Wiley Ave.	2022-2023	5	3.4 - 4.5	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	400 Caylor Blvd.	2022-2023	13	4.2 – 12.7	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	429 E. Dustman	2022-2023	9	7.3 – 10.2	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	900 Compromise Ln.	2022-2023	3	2.8 – 3.5	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	1435 West Wiley Ave.	2022-2023	11	8.9 – 11.5	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
TTHM	400 Caylor Blvd.	2022-2023	41	30.94 – 46.5	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
TTHM	429 E. Dustman	2022-2023	23	20.66 -25.18	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
TTHM	900 Compromise Ln.	2022-2023	7	6.1 - 8.2	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water Chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Barium	12/8/2021	0.027	0.027	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	12/8/2021	2.5	2.5	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Dibromochloromethane	8/7/2023	0.0075	0 – 0.0075	MG/L	0.1	1	
Fluoride	12/8/21	1	1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of Natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel	12/8/2021	0.0019	0.0019	MG/L	0.1	0.1	

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Course
Combined Radium (-226 & -228)	7/26/2022	0.55	0.28 – 0.55	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha, EXCL. Radon & U	7/26/2022	2.43	1.55- 2.43	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium -226	7/26/2022	0.55	0.28 – 0.55	pCi/L	5	0	

Violations

During the period covered by this report we had the below noted violations.

Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation
11/15/2022 / - 1/5/2023	Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	Sample siting plan errors (RTCR)	Failed to develop or revise a coliform sample siting plan, including schedule, sample sites, and/or how sites were chosen.

Our system collected samples under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples in 2023 and did not detect any of the compounds. If you would like to view our results, contact our office at 260-824-6064 or todd.shady@blufftonindiana.gov

There are no additional required health effects notices.
There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Mr. Todd Shady, Production Supervisor, at 824-6064. If you want to learn more, please contact Mr. Shady to arrange for an appointment at the Water Filtration Plant. Appointments can be scheduled Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. We want Bluffton customers to be informed about their water utility. Board of Public Works and Safety meeting are held weekly on Tuesdays at 4:30pm at City Hall.