

Sweetwater Utilities Board

Water Quality Report 2020

Is my drinking water safe?

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We're happy to report that our water met all of the EPA's health standards. This is the seventeenth installment of our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is available at our office or at www.sweetwaterutilities.com. At SUB, our goal is to provide the community a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring that the water we provide is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

Source Water: What does my water come from?

Our surface water source is Sweetwater Creek and Cannon Spring. Both water sources are combined at SUB's Water Treatment Plant. Customers on the east side of our service area also receive water from Tellico Area Services System. The Tennessee Dept. of Environment has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for the untreated water sources. The Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources are rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible and slightly susceptible. Our rating is reasonably susceptible. An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be can be attained by visiting www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or by contacting your local water supplier.

Are there contaminants in my water?

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).

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the 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.

Contaminants of source water may include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic compounds, 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 compounds, 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, the EPA and the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants allowed to persist 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. The table on the following page shows the detected substances in your water. All of the detected substances were well below the maximum limits, set by EPA and the State of Tennessee.

How can I get involved?

Our regularly scheduled board meetings are held on the last Monday of every month at 5:30 P.M. in the Sweetwater Utilities Board conference room located at 400 Hwy 322 E

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

Additionally, we have a wellhead protection plan available at our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have under-gone 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 their personal sanitation, food preparation, handling infants and pets, and drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data

Definitions

- **MCGL:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCGLs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasibly possible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **ND (Non-Detects):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **PPB:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **PPM:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (used to measure the cloudiness of water)
- **AL:** Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
- **TT:** Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
- **BDL:** Below Detection Limit

Most of the data in the following table was recorded between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Monitoring for certain contaminants occurs less than once per year. The most recent monitoring date for these contaminants is listed.

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Substance
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1 Positive Sample	0	0	No	2020	Naturally Present in the environment.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper*	1.3	AL 1.3 ppm	90th% 0.155 ppm	0.0021-0.155 ppm	No	2018 & 2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Flouride	4	4 ppm	0.603 ppm avg	0.422-0.677 ppm	No	Daily 2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilaizer and aluminum factories
Lead*	0	AL 15 ppb	90th% 3.7 ppb	0-3.7 ppb	No	2018 & 2020	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10 ppb	1.90 ppm	0.121-1.90 ppm	No	2020	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	18.1 ppm	6.31-18.1 ppm	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	n/a	TT (95%<0.3	0.08 NTU avg	0.03-0.13 NTU	No	Continuously 2020	Soil runoff
Chlorine (ppm)	4	MRDL 4 ppm	1.48 ppm avg	0.70-1.70 ppm	No	Daily 2020	Water additive for disinfection
Organic Contaminants							
Total Organic Carbon**	TT	TT	0.63 ppm	0-0.837 ppm	No	Quarterly 2020	Naturally Present in the environment.
Total Haloacetic Acids	n/a	n/a	30 ppb avg	10-50 ppb	No	Quarterly 2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes	n/a	n/a	50 ppb avg	10-60 ppb	No	Quarterly 2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
*Zero out of 30 sites exceeded the action level of lead or copper **Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon were met							

Required Consumer Confidence Report statement addressing lead in drinking water

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. Sweetwater Utilities Board is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize your potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the 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 <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

For more information about your drinking water, please call us at (423) 337-5081 OR visit the following online resources

U.S. Environment Protection Agency

Lead Hotline – The National Lead Information Center

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/forms/lead-hotline-national-lead-information-center>