CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Sweetwater Utilities Board

2025

Water Plant

Sweetwater Utilities Board

Water Quality Report 2025

Is my drinking water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report to you. We are happy to report that our water met all EPA health standards. This is the twentieth installment of our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is available as a hard copy at our office, and can also be found on our website under the Services – Water Distribution tab. At SUB, we are committed to providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, along with meeting federal and state drinking water 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 https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or by contacting your local water supplier.

Did SUB's water system incur any violations in 2025?

SUB received a TDEC notice of violation in November 2025. The CCR rule states that public water systems are required to provide its customers access to its CCR by July 1st. An internet link to access our 2024 CCR was not placed on our customer's water bills prior to the July 1, 2025 deadline. This resulted in a violation of the CCR rule. Proper steps have been taken to make sure this does not happen again in the future.

Are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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, can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive compounds can be naturally occurring or are the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

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?

The State and EPA require SUB to sample and analyze the quality of our water. Samples, tests, and reporting are done on a routine basis. It is our priority to meet all guidelines and rules, so that the quality of our drinking water remains safe. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request.

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 System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to **(423) 337-5081**

Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: https://www.tnpharm.org/patient-resources/disposing-of-unwanted-drugs/

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- MRDL: 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 the control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. 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.
- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Below Detection Level (BDL) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016, and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Most of the data in the following table was recorded between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Monitoring certain contaminants occurs less than once per year. The most recent monitoring date for these contaminants is listed.

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Level Detection	Range of Detections	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Substance
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	0	0	No	2025	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper[1]	1.3	AL 1.3 ppm	90th% 0.05880 ppm	0.0023-0.0490 ppm	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4 ppm	0.604 ppm	0.00-0.950 ppm	No	Daily 2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead[1]	0	AL 15 ppb	90th% 1.0 ppb	0.09-5.9 ppb	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10 ppb	1.31 ppm	0.100-1.31 ppm	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	n/a	n/a	10.4 ppm	8.02-10.4 ppm	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity[2]	n/a	TT (95%<0.3)	0.11 NTU	0.02-0.11 NTU	No	Continuously 2025	Soil runoff
Chlorine	4	MRDL 4 ppm	1.76 ppm avg	1.0-2.7 ppm	No	Daily 2025	Water additive used to control microbes.
Organic Contaminants							
Total Organic Carbon[3]	TT	TT	0.794 ppm	0.50-1.11 ppm	No	Quarterly 2025	Naturally present in the environment.
Halo acetic Acids (HAA5)	n/a	60	51.30 ppb	16.90-51.30 ppb	No	Quarterly 2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	n/a	80	53.60 ppb	21.00-53.60 ppb	No	Quarterly 2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Required Consumer Confidence Report statement addressing trihalomethanes in drinking water

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[1] Zero out of 30 sites exceeded the action level for Lead and Copper.
[2] 100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
[3] Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon were met.

Required Consumer Confidence Report statement addressing lead in drinking water

When present, lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Sweetwater Utilities Board is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing of your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. 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://epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Required Consumer Confidence Report statement addressing Lead Service Line Inventory

Sweetwater Utilities Board was required to develop, and maintain an inventory of each water service on its system. The purpose of the inventory is to identify the pipe material used in each service. The inventory includes SUB's portion of the service, along with the customer owned portion of the service. To this point, there have been zero lead service lines found on SUB's system. This is an ongoing project, that will be updated as the material of each service line continues to be identified. A copy of the inventory can be accessed by contacting the Sweetwater Utilities Board office.

For more information about your drinking water, please call us at (423) 337-5081