



2024

WATER QUALITY REPORT

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

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 Levels, or the highest of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Explained in relation to time and money, 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 (ug/l): Explained in relation to time and money, one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10 million.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ug/l): One part substance per trillion parts water.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of five (5) NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

BDL: Below detectable level.

IRON CONTENT: Iron occurs naturally in our raw water and occasionally accumulates in the distribution system. It shows up as "red" or "rusty" water at your tap. Although you do not want to drink water that is not clear, iron is not considered to be a hazard to your health. We test for iron weekly and it is usually around 0.02 ppm. The aesthetic limit for iron is 0.3 ppm.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, 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 disinfectant use to control microbial contaminants.

IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

Yes, our water meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The chart shows detected contaminants and all were at safe levels, well below the EPA limits.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

Your water, which is true groundwater, comes from a Cambrian-Ordovician carbonate underground aquifer in the Chickamauga watershed. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system.

The SWAP 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 have been rated as reasonably susceptible (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Hixson Utility District Water System sources rate as reasonably susceptible (high) to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's SWAP, the source of Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/>

continued on back

WATER QUALITY REPORT

CONTAMINANT	YEAR SAMPLED	MCLG	MCL of TT	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTION	COMPLIANCE ACHIEVED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine	2024	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.14 ppm	0.8 to 1.4 ppm	Yes	Drinking water disinfectant
Fluoride	2024	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.615 ppm	0.565 to 0.661 ppm	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Coliform Bacteria ⁽¹⁾	2024	0	5%	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	2024	N/A	TT	0.70 NTU	0.1 to 0.7 NTU	Yes	Soil runoff
Lead ⁽²⁾	2023	0	AL=15 ppb	90% = 2.04 ppb	BDL to 6.20 ppb	Yes	Corrosion of house hold plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2023	1.3 ppm	AL= 1.3 ppm	90%= 0.573 ppm	0.114 to 0.723 ppm	Yes	Corrosion of house hold plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	2024	N/A	N/A	1.25 ppm	1.19 to 1.25 ppm	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment chemicals
THM (Total Trihalomethanes)	2024	N/A	80 ppb	5.51 ppb	4.62 to 5.51 ppb	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Total Halocetic Acids)	2024	N/A	60 ppb	1.73 ppb	1.25 to 1.73 ppb	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate	2024	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.741 ppm	0.48 to 0.741 ppm	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	2023	0	15 pCi/l	0.628 pCi/l	0.143 to 0.628 pCi/l	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits;
Combined Radium	2023	0	5 pCi/l	0.574 pCi/l	0.106 to 0.574 pCi/l	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits;
Barium	2021	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.025 ppm	0.0132 to 0.025 ppm	Yes	Discharge of drilling waste, discharge from metal refineries; erosion from natural deposits

- (1) 840 samples were taken for the year with zero samples testing positive.
- (2) During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 0 out of the 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

UNREGULATED PFAS CONTAMINANTS⁽¹⁾

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT	DATE OF SAMPLE	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
PFBS (ppt) ⁽²⁾	Sept, 24	6	6	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities
PFHxS (ppt)	Sept, 24	6.1	6.1	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities

- (1) Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
- (2) Hixson Utility District tested for 29 PFAS chemicals at entry point as part of the EPA's UCMR5 program. PFAS not listed in the above table were below the reporting limit. For more information on PFAS in drinking water, visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm
www.hixsonutility.com



continued from front

wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or you may contact Tom Bockman at Hixson Utility District at 423.877.3513 between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday, or TDEC at 1.888.891.8332 to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Your water comes from natural underground sources owned by Hixson Utility District and is withdrawn at the two different well fields. The high natural water quality at both Cave Springs and Walker's Corner well fields meet EPA standards to avoid filtration. A Wellhead Protection Plan is available for your review by contacting Tom Bockman at 423.877.3513.

WHY ARE 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 the 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 1.800.426.4791.

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 land surface 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 that may be present in source water:

- 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, 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 volitalic 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in the bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We invite you to attend our Board of Commissioners' meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 8am at our office.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN ITS OPERATIONS?

Both the EPA and the TDEC require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements and want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as patients with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV, AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their healthcare providers about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene and precautions in Centers for Disease Control guidelines on the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

We work around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

WHAT ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

The EPA is asking all utilities to help gather information to both see who could be affected, and also to help utilities create a database of these at-risk properties going forward and be able to provide information to correct any issues. The Lead and Copper Service Line Survey can be accessed using this QR code.



Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, 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. Hixson Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes in Utility owned infrastructure but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home or private service line. 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 service line 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Hixson Utility District at 423-877-3513 for information on testing laboratories. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. If you are concerned about lead in the drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791 or see <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SELECTING OUR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners of Hixson Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Hamilton County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee State Comptroller's Office pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated. This Board may be reached at 615-532-0472.

Hixson Utility District meets the third Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office.

COMMISSIONERS:

Jeff Davis
Rebecca R. Hunter
Philip R. Schofield

GENERAL MANAGER:

Gregory K. Butler

