

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report prepared in 2020 is the Report for 2019

City of Wellston Ohio North & South Water Works

The City of Wellston's public water system has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

The City of Wellston's public water system uses surface water drawn from the Little Raccoon Creek and ground water drawn from an abandoned mine. Potential contaminant sources around the Little Raccoon Creek and the well field include some developed areas and contain a number of potential contaminant sources.

"The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003. It was determined that all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. No evidence to suggest that the City of Wellston's surface waters or ground water/surface water (abandoned mines) has been impacted by any significant levels of chemical contaminants from human activities, and the presence of potential contaminant sources in the protection area. More detailed information is provided in the City of Wellston's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by going to <http://www.wapp.epa.ohio.gov/gis/swpa/OH4001912.pdf> or calling Adam Peters at 740-384-6274.

"For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be easily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens. Also, compared to ground water, they tend to move swiftly, so an upstream spill may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare. The City of Wellston additionally uses water from the abandoned coal mine, which is a mixture of ground water and surface water. This water also has a high susceptibility to contamination."

"The drinking source protection areas for the surface water and underground source include some significant potential contaminant sources, including inadequate septic systems, an active coal preparation plant, runoff from pastures, and run-off directly into the underground reservoir (abandoned coal mine) through drainage wells."

"It is important that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. While the source water for the City of Wellston Public Water System is considered susceptible to contamination, historically, the Wellston Public Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards."

Implementing measures to protect Little Raccoon Creek and the underground reservoir (abandoned mine) can further decrease water quality impacts.

Wellston's North and South Water Systems are considered a single system since they can both pump into the combined distribution system. This report contains information on the water quality from both treatment plants.

What are sources of contamination to drinking 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 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.

Many water sources contain the following contaminants:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants 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, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and drug administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which shall provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Sampling

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 whether future regulation is warranted. For a copy of the results please call Adam Peters at 740-384-6274.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes *E. coli* bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the Public Water System (PWS).

About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Wellston Water System conducts sampling for; bacteria, nitrate, inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, Lead and Copper. The Ohio EPA requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. All of our reported data is from tests performed in 2017 or 2019.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percent of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Wellston's highest recorded turbidity result for 2019 was 0.280 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Disinfection Byproducts Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids

These contaminants are formed when chlorine is added to water to kill bacteria, virus and protozoa. The chlorine also reacts with organic chemicals creating the Disinfection Byproducts; Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. 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.

Lead Exposure Health Risk

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. Wellston Public Water System 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 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw> or by calling 614-644-2752. Information of lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contamination
Residual Disinfectants							
Chlorine (ppm)	MCLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.81	1.62 – 1.98	No	2019	Water additive used to control microbes.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead (ppb)	0	Action Limit (AL) = 15	2.2	90% of test levels were 2.2 ppb or less	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	Zero out of twenty samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb, individual results over AL is zero, 90% of tests were 2.2 ppb or less						
Copper (ppm)	0	Action Limit (AL) = 1.3	0.081	90% of test levels were 0.081 ppm or less	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
	Zero out of twenty samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1,300 ppb, individual results over AL is zero, 90% of tests were 81 ppb or less						
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	0	80	63.5	7.8-63.9	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Five Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	0	60	55.9	6.0-38.5	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
South Plant							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	<0.50	<0.10-<0.50	No	2019	Runoff from fertilizer user; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.012	NA	No	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.230	0.230	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Treatment Technique							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.260	.024-.260	No	2019	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	100%	No	2019	
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.0	1.0 – 1.0	No	2019	Naturally present in the environment.

North Plant							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.32	<0.10 - 0.32	No	2019	Runoff from fertilizer user; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.012	NA	No	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.14	0.80 - 1.29	No	2019	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits.
Treatment Technique							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.280	0.019 - 0.280	No	2019	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	100%	No	2019	
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.0	1.0 – 1.0	No	2019	Naturally present in the environment.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of The Wellston City Council, which are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The state and federal Environmental Protection Agencies make Decisions concerning drinking water treatment, monitoring and reporting. You should follow media reports of regulatory legislation and activity closely. Concerns about state and federal regulatory activity should be voiced to your state and federal representatives and senators. If you have any questions please contact Adam Peters at 740-384-6274.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): A suggested but non-binding limit.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest residual disinfectant level allowed.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of residual disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

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

Threshold Level: The lead threshold level is exceeded at 0.015 milligrams per liter concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample.

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

Parts per Million (ppm) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in approximately 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means "less than". A result of "<5" means that the lowest level detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Picocuries per liter(pCi/l): A common measure of radioactivity.

License to Operate

The City of Wellston, in 2019 had, and currently has an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Operation Plan

The City of Wellston Water System has both a Vulnerability Assessment and an Emergency Operation Plan on file with the Ohio EPA and the USEPA.

Help us spread this information.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

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