Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
SERVICES CENTER SYSTEM
Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to present to you the *2023 Annual Quality Water Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Included with this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts.

WATER SOURCE

The Services Center System's water source consists of two ground water wells. Both wells are drilled into the Sharon Aquifer and are located in the center of "Geauga County" property allowing us the protection area around the wells that some systems can't offer due to property lines.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) completed a study of the Geauga County Services Center System's source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer that supplies water to G.C. Services Center System has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

* Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area.
* The presence of manmade contaminants in the treated water.

The risk of future contamination can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. Some suggestions made by the OEPA in the source water assessment report to improve the protection of the sources have already been implemented.

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

The Geauga County Services Center Water System has a current and unconditional license to operate our water system. The license is issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about this Consumer Confidence Report, the Source Water Assessment Report (SWAR), or concerning the Department's Water Section, please contact the Geauga County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) at (440) 279-1970 or visit our website at www.gcdwr.org. Our office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and our office is located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive Suite # 390 Chardon, Oh. 44024. Public participation and comments are encouraged. Available at our offices and on our website are pamphlets explaining what, you the consumer, can do to help protect our sources and minimize water use through leak detection and water conservation. These pamphlets are free to the public and can be picked up or requested to be mailed to our customers by calling the office Monday-Friday at the number listed above.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF POTENTIAL 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 the water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. It may also pick up substances 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 health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection to public health.

Geauga County Services Center system treats source water to remove contaminants. 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

ASSISTANCE

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources and supplies by reporting any unusual activity around any of our facilities including fire hydrants. All reports should be made to our office during working hours and after hours can be made to our answering service at 1-877-902-2359 or the Geauga County Sheriff's office at (440) 286-1234. Any unauthorized use is against Department Policy, The Ohio Revised Code, and the Federal Law. The possibility of damage, requiring a boil advisory or worse yet an outage that cannot be repaired quickly, would be a major inconvenience to all.

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Geauga County Services System conducted sampling for bacteria, disinfection and disinfection by-product contaminants during 2023. During the year, 65 water samples were analyzed for different and specific contaminants, most of which were not detected in the Geauga County Services System water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Geauga County Services Center System is in compliance with all Maximum Contaminant Levels and Treatment Techniques for drinking water. We had no safe Drinking Water Act violations in 2023. Geauga County Services Center System had a 2023 unconditional license to operate to operate our water system. The license is issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

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. Geauga County Services Center Water is responsible for delivering 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 for drinking and 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 at 800-426-4791** or at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.02	0.68 –1.27	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	21.0	17.3-21.0	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	31.8	9.13-31.8	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	0.539	0.539-0.539	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	0.674	0.674-0.674	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Compounds							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.00039	N/A	No	2023	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Lead and Copper Monitoring

Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Sample Year	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	NA	9.0 ppb	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
_0_ samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	NA	0.26 ppm	No	2023	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems
_0_ samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

* The USEPA sets standards for controlling disinfectants and disinfectant by-products in drinking water. By-products, such as TTHMs and HAA5, form when combining chlorine with naturally occurring organic matter. Locations with elevated disinfection by-product concentrations are being identified and will be used for future compliance monitoring and reporting.

DEFINITIONS OF SOME TERMS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS REPORT

In the tables on the previous pages, 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:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days,

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. Apart per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

BDL - Below detectable limits

Ug/L – Micrograms per liter; or parts per billion

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) **-** a common measure of radioactivity

Thank you for taking the time to read this CCR. We appreciate you as our customer and work very hard for your continued trust and faith in our commitment to the supply of safe drinking water.

Please post this in a very public location, inform your staff of its location and copy as required so that all users of our water can be informed. If you would like additional copies, please call our office, at (440)-279-1970, or visit our website at www.gcdwr.org/water/ and click on the corresponding report.