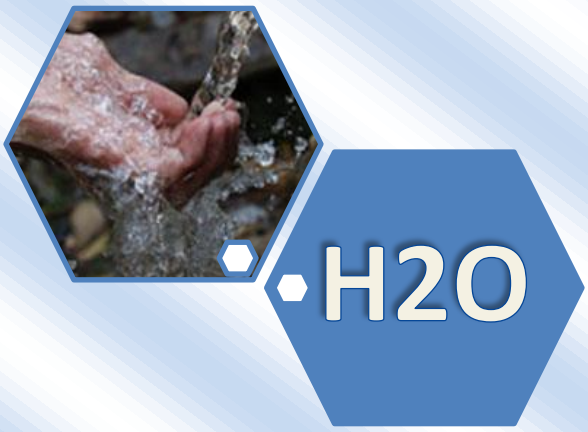
Annual Town of Bluff City
Water Quality Report
2024

PWSID - 0000061

Bluff City 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

IN 1996, CONGRESS AMENDED THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT REQUIRING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE CUSTORMERS WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR DRINKING WATER. WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT OUR ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT. THIS REPORT COVERS ALL TESTING COMPLETED BETWEEN JAN.1 AND DEC. 31, 2024

This report provides information about the quality of the drinking water provided by the Town of Bluff City Water Utilities. The Town of Bluff City operates a municipal water treatment and distribution utility that is owned by the Town of Bluff City. Treated drinking water is also purchased from Bristol Bluff City Utility (BBCU) and delivered to the residents and businesses of Bluff City. Rigorous testing are preformed every month by both utilities to ensure the quality of our drinking water. Our goal is to inform consumers about the source of water, and how we ensure its safety.



Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see from the chart on the back, we only detected 7 of these contaminants. We found all these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water source is groundwater that comes from Underwood Springs. 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 water to this water system, The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to *potential contamination*. To Ensure safe drinking water, all public water system treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geological factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Bluff City's water source is rated as ***Reasonably susceptible*** to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at Source Water Assessment or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments. A wellhead protection plan is available for your review at the Bluff City office between 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. weekdays.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some 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 (600-426- 4791).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Allen Moultrie at 423-538-7144.

How can I get involved?

Our Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at city hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The city council of Bluff City serves four-year terms. The council is an elected position. Decisions by the Board on customer complaints brought before the Board under the city's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) Tennessee Code Annotated

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

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

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.

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.

- 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, 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, 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, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants 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.

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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).

Lead in Drinking Water

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. Bluff City Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact **Error! Reference source not found.** at 423-538-7144. 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.

Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the safety of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 423-538-7144

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: **Find a Prescription Drug Take-Back Box**

Terms to Know

- 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.

Bluff City 2024

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	N	0		2024		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli Bacteria	N	0		2024		0		Human or animal wastes
Turbidity	N	0.38	0.10-0.38	2024	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Lead	N	90% = < 2.0	< 2.0 – < 2.0	2024	PPB	0	AL=15	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	90% = 0.0894	0.00965-0.129	2024	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of Household Plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Sodium	N	2.63	2.63	2024	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Nitrate	N	0.126	0.126	2024	PPM	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	31.68	22.10-37.40	2024	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]	N	23.93	14.10-28.60	2024	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	N	1.39	0.50-2.06	2024	PPB	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

Bristol Bluff Utility CCR

We also purchase water from Bristol Bluff Utility. This is their sampling from 2024

Water Quality Data Table

Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	N	0		2024		0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	N	.19	0.03-0.19	2024	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Asbestos	N	ND		2022	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water main; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	90% = .0208		2023	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	N	90% = BDL		2023	PPB	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	7.36		2024	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Nitrate	N	0.458		2024	PPM	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	N			2024	PPM	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	51.38	39.50 – 63.00	2024	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]	N	39.63	29.20 – 55.70	2024	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	N	1.67 avg.	1.20 -2.00	2024	PPM	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.