

**Tri-County Water Authority**  
**Harrisville, Oh. 43974**  
**Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2023**

Dear Customer:

The Tri-County Water Authority has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our Drinking Water. This report was required as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Reauthorization of 1996 and is the 26th annual report to be delivered to the consumers. Included in this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts. Your drinking water has met all EPA standards. We have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

The Tri-County Water Authority receives the majority of its drinking water from The City of Martins Ferry. The City of Martins Ferry receives its water from the Monongahela Aquifer by seven wells located at 6 North First St. Martins Ferry, OH 43935.

The Tri-County Water Authority also has a hook-up connection with the Belmont County Sanitary & Sewer District. The connection is at the Intersection of Maynard Road and US Route 250. The Belmont County Sanitary & Sewer District is supplied with water from wells located at 5010 N. Guernsey St. Bellaire, OH 43906, that is supplied by the Aquifer in the region. Tri-County received 424,000 gallons of water in 2023 from that connection. A copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by calling them at 740-695-3144.

**What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes 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 include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 run-off, and septic systems; (E) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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.

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).

**Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 infection. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Source Water Susceptibility Report.**

The Ohio EPA recently completed a study of The Martins Ferry Public Water Supply'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 (water rich zone) that supplies water to Martins Ferry has a high susceptibility to contamination. This Determination is based on the following.

- > The lack of a protective layer of clay or shale overlying the aquifer.
- > A relatively shallow depth (approximately 30 feet below ground surface) of the Aquifer.
- > The presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area due to the proximity of businesses within our aquifers boundaries.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of this aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City will do everything that they can do to minimize any contamination. And properly test the water to detect any contamination that would occur. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling Donnie Neavin or Bill Suto at the Martins Ferry Water Plant at (740) 633-1378

### **About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Tri-County Water Authority conducted sampling for Bacteria, Trihalomethanes, Haloacetic Acids, Asbestos, Lead, and Copper. The Martins Ferry Water Department conducted sampling for bacteria, radiological, synthetic organic, and volatile organic contaminant sampling during 2023. Samples were collected for a total of 75 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Martins Ferry water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

"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. Tri-County Water Authority 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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of The Tri-County Water Authority, which meets monthly, on the second Tuesday at 4:00 PM at the office in Harrisville, OH.

For more information on your drinking water, you can contact Garth Edwards at 740-546-3745.

### **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.

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 (ug/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

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

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

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Tri-County Water, Martins Ferry and Belmont County's water supply.

Contaminants (Units)	MC LG	MCL	Level Found	Range of detection	Sample year	Violations	Water dept	Typical source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10 10	10 10	.482 .573	.482-.482 .566-.573	2023 2023	NO NO	M.F. Bel.Co	Fertilizer - sewage Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4 4	4 4	.918 1.20	.918-.918 .70-1.46	2023 2022	NO NO	M.F. Bel.Co	Water additive which Promotes strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	0 0 0	AL= 15ppb	2.1 <5.0 <1	<.6-2.8 <.5.0-8.2 90%-3.45	2023 2023 2023	NO NO NO	Tri-Co. M.F. Bel.Co	Corrosion of Household Plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits
Copper ppm	AL= 1.3 ppm	AL=1. 3 ppm	.240 .10 ..615	.071-.269 <.05-.86	2023 2023 2023	NO NO NO	Tri-Co. M.F. Bel.Co	Corrosion of Household Plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos MFL	7	7	<.20	N/A	2021	NO	Tri-Co.	Decay of asbestos cement water mains Natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	0 N/A NA	80 80 80	44.0 20.0 52.6	43.0-44.0 17.3-23.3 10.4-55.6	2023 2023 2023	NO NO NO	Tri-Co. M.F. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids five (ppb)	N/A N/A N/A	60 60 60	6.6 9.0 16.1	5.7-6.6 6.64-11.4 8.62-24.6	2023 2022 2023	NO NO NO	Tri-Co. M.F. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination

Chloroform (ppb)	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	<b>4.3</b> <b>1.03</b>	4.3-4.3 1.03-1.03	2023 2022	NO NO	Tri-Co. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	<b>8.9</b> <b>2.70</b>	8.7-8.9 .83-3.8	2023 2021	NO NO	Tri-Co. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
Bromodichloro-Methane (ppb)	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	<b>12.5</b> <b>1.64</b>	12.3-12.5 1.64-1.64	2023 2022	NO NO	Tri-Co. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
Dibromochloro-Methane (ppb)	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	<b>18.4</b> <b>1.45</b>	17.8-18.4 1.45-1.45	2023 2022	NO NO	Tri-Co. Bel.Co	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
Total Chlorine Residuals (ppm)	4 4 4	4 4 4	<b>.636</b> <b>.9</b> <b>1.09</b>	.39-.92 .9-.9 .95-1.09	2023 2023 2023	NO NO NO	TCWA M.F. Bel. Co.	By- product of drinking Water chlorination
CIS 1,2(ppm) Dichoroethene	70	70	<b>ND</b>	NA	2017	NO	Bel.Co.	Discharge from Industrial Chemical
Barium			<b>.0518</b>	.05-1	2020	NO	M.F.	Facilities, Drilling Waste
Barium	2	2	<b>.028</b>	N/A	2020	NO	Bel.Co.	

Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5.0	<b>0.668</b>	N/A	2020	NO	Bel. Co.	Erosion of natural deposits
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This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2016. All water systems were required to comply with the Total Coliform Rule from 1989 to March 31, 2016, and 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 public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable 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 PWS. **Tri-County Water Authority did not have any positive samples for the year 2022.**

**Tri County Water Authority failed to take samples for Total coliform/ Bacteria in Nov. 2022. This resulted in a Letter of Violation from Ohio EPA. All samples and monitoring requirements since then have been completed on time.**



