

BROWN COUNTY RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report
For 2023

BCRWA 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. We are proud to report to you that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

BCRWA receives its drinking water from the Ohio River Valley Aquifer through 13 groundwater wells.

Ohio EPA recently completed a study of Brown County Rural Water Association's source of drinking water to determine its susceptibility. According to this study, the aquifer (water saturated zone) that supplies drinking water to the Brown County Rural Water has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following: the nature of the aquifer in which the drinking water wells are located, presence of a relatively thin protective layer of clay overlying the aquifer, the shallow depth (less than 40 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer, and the presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area, including periodic serious flooding of the Ohio River. This susceptibility rating means that under currently existing conditions, the potential of the aquifer to become contaminated is relatively high. This potential can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. More detailed information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling BCRWA at (937) 375-4106 ext. 236.

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.

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 runoff, 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, USEPA 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 Federal 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).

About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. BCRWA conducted sampling for ***{bacteria; inorganic; and disinfection byproducts}*** during **2023**. Samples were collected for several different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the BCRWA 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, may be more than one year old.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the **Brown County Rural Water Association** drinking water.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.25	1.23 - 1.27	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.48	NA	No	2023	Runoff from fertilizers, erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.0	0.74- 1.1	No	2023	Water additive required by State of Ohio E.P.A.
Antimony (ppm)	0.006	0.006	<0.003	NA	No	2023	Discharge from refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0065	NA	No	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppm)	0.05	0.05	<0.003	NA	No	2023	Discharge from refineries and mines; erosion of natural deposits.
Thallium (ppm)	0.0005	0.002	<0.001	NA	No	2023	Discharge from factories
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.1	NA	No	2023	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	21.8	17.4 – 26.1	No	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (ppb)	NA	60	<6	ND	No	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	MCLG	AL	90 th percentile	# of sites found above the AL	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	0	15	0.0	0-30	ND – 3.3	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.009	0-30	ND-0.019	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Lead Educational Information

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. BCRWA 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Unregulated Contaminants

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. IN 2023 Brown County Rural Water Association participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call Doug Kelsey at 937-375-4106 ext 236. There were no detections of any of the UCMR5 contaminants in our drinking water.

PFAS Information

In 2020, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In **2023** we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at the annual **Board of Trustees** Meeting which is held on the fourth Friday of March each year.

For more information on your drinking water contact:

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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.

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