



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2023

During 2023, Clermont County had an unconditioned license to operate the Clermont County Water System PWS ID# 1302212.

## ***We are pleased to present***

our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Since 1955, Clermont County has been dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Questions concerning the Clermont County water system may be directed to Tim Neyer at (513) 732-7945.





# *your* **Water**



## **SOURCE WATER DESCRIPTION**

The Clermont County Water System operates three water treatment plants that pump into a common distribution system of pipes serving our customers. The Miami, Goshen, Stonelick (MGS) plant, near Miami, draws from wells in the Little Miami River Aquifer. The Pierce, Union, Batavia (PUB) plant is near New Palestine, its wells draw from the Ohio River Valley Aquifer. The Bob McEwen Water Treatment Plant (BMW) is located in Batavia Township and draws surface water from Harsha Lake. Surface water is more susceptible to contamination than groundwater; therefore, frequent and extensive testing of the raw water is conducted. Chemical and bacteriological testing, as well as an evaluation of the biological organisms living upstream of the lake, is used to determine raw water quality and identify areas of concern. Information on the watershed collected by Clermont County is available from the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) at (513) 732-7894 or online at <http://www.oeq.net>.

## **SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PROCESS**

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to a mixing tank where polyaluminum chloride is added. The addition of these substances causes small particles (called floc) to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges. Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, caustic soda (to adjust the final pH and alkalinity) and fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) are added before the water is pumped to reservoirs and water towers and into your home or business.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

In 2004 the Ohio EPA performed a source water assessment for the MGS wellfield and designated it as highly susceptible to contamination. This is based in part on the geology of the aquifer, which is shallow and has little or no impermeable materials above it. Another factor is the presence of potential sources of pollution in the area. The Ohio EPA also noted the presence of nitrates in the water, which suggests human influences in the aquifer. However,

the water continues to meet drinking water standards. It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The wellfield is monitored for contamination and cared for under an Ohio EPA-endorsed Wellhead Protection Plan.

To learn more, call Mike Long at (513) 553-3338.

A susceptibility analysis of the PUB water sources by the Ohio EPA has determined that this aquifer has a high susceptibility for contamination based on a relatively thin layer of low permeable material overlying it and its relatively shallow depth. Potential pollution sources in the area and a possible hydraulic connection to the Ohio River also contribute to this assessment. However, the Ohio EPA agrees that there is no evidence of existing chemical contaminants. These wellfields are also monitored for contamination and cared for under an Ohio EPA-endorsed Wellhead Protection Plan. To learn more, call Mike Long at (513) 553-3338.

The Ohio EPA completed a source water assessment for BMW in 2004. The protection area around Harsha Lake and the upstream portions of the East Fork of the Little Miami River includes a number of commercial and industrial facilities, but the greater concerns are runoff from agricultural fields, the potential for spills at road and rail crossings, and residential septic systems in the watershed. To learn more, contact Ryan Hancock at (513) 732-5386.

Sources identified in the Potential Pollution Source Inventory include Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station, the PUB Water Treatment Plant, on-site wastewater treatment systems, underground and aboveground fuel storage tanks, the Ohio River, Ten Mile Creek, and transportation routes. The susceptibility ranking for all three plants was high priority. It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. Customers may get a copy of the assessment by calling Tim Neyer at (513) 732-7945.



# 2023 TEST RESULTS

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water. Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken. Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper from sample sites throughout the community.

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants
Chlorine (PPM)	2023	4	4	1.25	1.03 - 1.32	No	Water additive to control microbes
Barium (PPM)	2023	2	2	0.042	0.029 - 0.042	No	Discharge if drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (PPB)	2023	200	200	2.0	1.0 - 2.0	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (PPM)	2023	4	4	1.03	0.81 - 1.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids (PPB)	2023	60	NA	28.5	ND - 45.1	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate (PPM)	2023	10	10	1.37	ND - 1.37	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon <sup>1</sup> (Removal Value)	2023	TT	NA	1.12	0.97 - 1.71	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs-Total Trihalo Methanes- Stage 1 <sup>2</sup> (PPB)	2023	80	NA	73.2	10.2 - 67.5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.202	0.018 - 0.202	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity <sup>3</sup> (Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT= 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil Runoff

Substance	Year Sampled	AL	Individual Results over AL	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Range	Sites above AL/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (PPB)	2023	15	N/A	2.1	ND - 5.5	0/52	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper <sup>4</sup> (PPM)	2023	1.3	1.33,1.51	0.622	0.33 - 1.51	2/52	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

1 The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to 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 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

2 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 system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

3 Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

4 Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s disease should consult their personal doctor.



## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**Removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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

# 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:**

**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, 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, 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)

## 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. Clermont County Water 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>.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



# Hardness of Your Drinking Water

## CUSTOMERS OFTEN ASK, “WHAT IS MY WATER HARDNESS?”

Customers in Stonelick and Batavia Townships and the eastern portion of Goshen Township have a hardness of roughly 7 grains per gallon (120 ppm). The remainder of our service area has approximately 10.5 (180 ppm) grains per gallon.



SOFT	SLIGHTLY HARD	MODERATED HARD	HARD	VERY HARD
0 to 17 ppm	17 to 60 ppm	60 to 120 ppm	120 to 180 ppm	More than 180 ppm



4400 Haskell Ln,  
Batavia, OH 45103

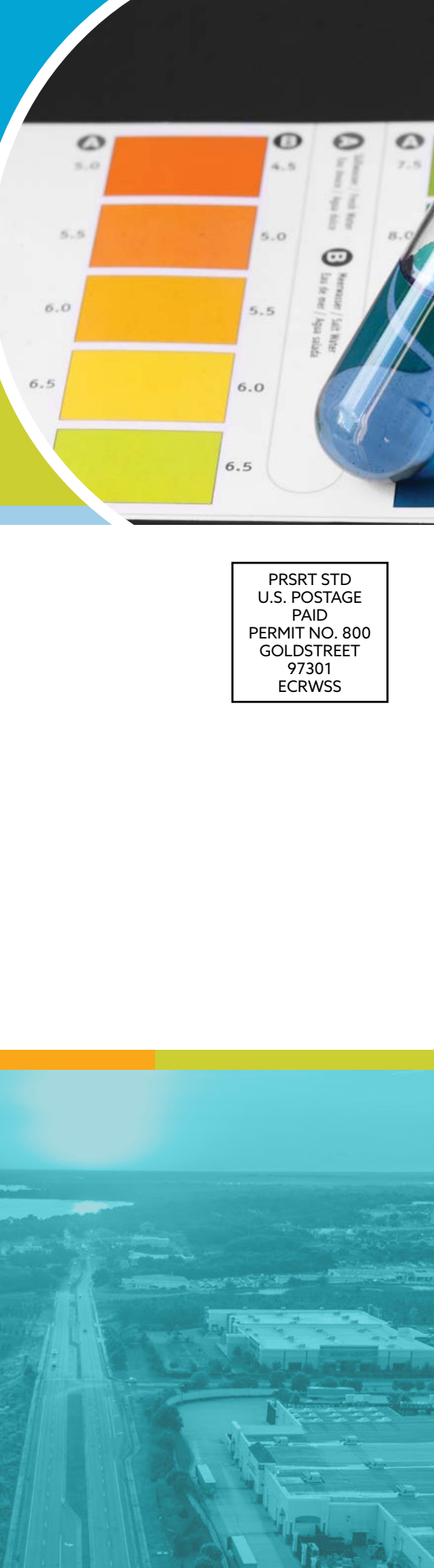
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## Public Meetings

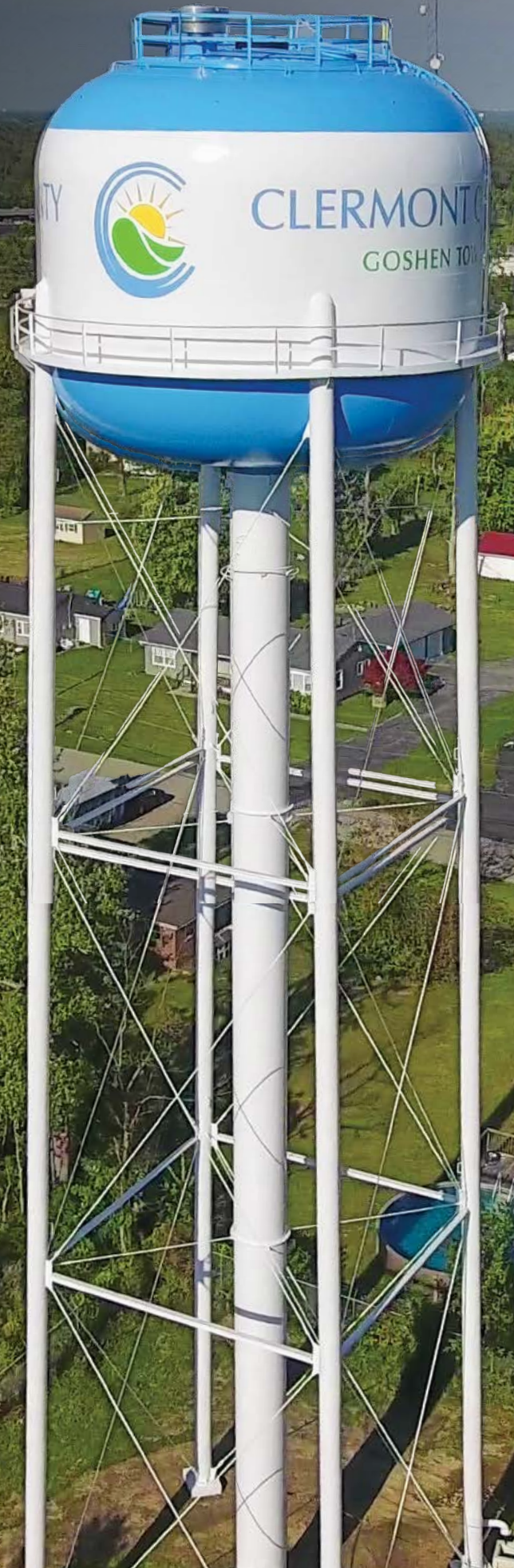
While the Water Resources Department does not hold regular meetings open to the public, customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about our drinking water. The Clermont County Board of County Commissioners hold sessions at 10:00 a.m. on most Mondays and Wednesdays in the third-floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 East Main Street in Batavia. Information related to meeting dates and times can be found by visiting the county website, [www.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov), or calling (513) 732-7300.





## MONITORING VIOLATION

On August 14th of 2023, Clermont County Water received a monitoring violation from the Ohio EPA. The violation was for the failure to monitor Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) during the second quarter 2023, per the monitoring schedule issued by the Ohio EPA. Clermont County Water returned to monitoring compliance for Total Haloacetic Acids on August 8th, 2023, when required samples were collected and analyzed. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Upon being notified of this violation, Clermont Public Water System was required to have the drinking water analyzed for the above mentioned parameters and has taken steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future.





# DRINKING WATER NOTICE

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## **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR CLERMONT PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the Second Quarter of 2023 time period we did not meet the requirements for the following contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time: Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5).

## **WHAT HAPPENED?**

Clermont Public Water System collected and submitted the required samples to an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency certified contract laboratory for analysis. The laboratory encountered technical difficulties and was unable to perform the required QA/QC on several samples and therefore accurate results are not available.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

This notice is to inform you that Clermont Public Water System did not monitor and report results for the presence of the contaminants listed above in the public drinking water system during the Second Quarter of 2023 time period, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. You do not need to take any actions in response to this notice.

## **WHAT IS BEING DONE?**

Upon being notified of this violation, Clermont Public Water System was required to have the drinking water analyzed for the above mentioned parameters and has taken steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future.

A sample was collected on 8/8/2023.

Sample results and additional information may be obtained by contacting Clermont Public Water System at:

**Tim Neyer**

**(513)732-7945**

**4400 Haskell Lane, Batavia, Ohio 45103**

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.