

STERLING CITY OF 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report

Covering Data For Calendar Year 2022

Public Water System ID: CO0138045

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact GEORGE GOOD at 970-522-9700 with any questions or for public participation opportunities that may affect water quality.

General Information

All 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 the 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) or by visiting [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

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 can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

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:** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants:** 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:** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water

provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact GEORGE GOOD at 970-522-9700. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may have provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report please visit [wqcdcompliance.com/ccr](https://www.wqcdcompliance.com/ccr). The report is located under "Guidance: Source Water Assessment Reports". Search the table using our system name or ID, or by contacting GEORGE GOOD at 970-522-9700. The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that **could** occur. It **does not** mean that the contamination **has or will** occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed on the next page.

Please contact us to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Quality Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day.

Our Water Sources

<u>Sources (Water Type - Source Type)</u>	<u>Potential Source(s) of Contamination</u>
WELL NO 8 (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 9 (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 15 (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 30 (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 1 (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 4A (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 5 (Groundwater-Well) WELL 9R REDRILL (Groundwater-Well) SCALVA WELL NO 2 (Groundwater UDI Surface Water-Well) WELL NO 3R (Groundwater-Well) WELL NO 10R (Groundwater-Well) RE-DRILL OF WELL NO. 2 (Groundwater-Well) REDRILL OF WELL 7 (Groundwater-Well)	Permitted Wastewater Discharge Sites, Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tank Sites, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Other Facilities, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High Intensity Residential, Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Fallow, Small Grains, Pasture / Hay, Septic Systems, Oil / Gas Wells, Road Miles

Terms and Abbreviations

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Health-Based** – A violation of either a MCL or TT.
- **Non-Health-Based** – A violation that is not a MCL or TT.
- **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.
- **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.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – 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.
- **Violation (No Abbreviation)** – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.
- **Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation)** – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.
- **Variance and Exemptions (V/E)** – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation)** – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.
- **Compliance Value (No Abbreviation)** – Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).
- **Average (x-bar)** – Typical value.
- **Range (R)** – Lowest value to the highest value.
- **Sample Size (n)** – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).
- **Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Not Applicable (N/A)** – Does not apply or not available.

- **Level 1 Assessment** – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment** – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Detected Contaminants

STERLING CITY OF routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

Note: Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section, then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.

Disinfectants Sampled in the Distribution System						
TT Requirement: At least 95% of samples per period (month or quarter) must be at least 0.2 ppm <u>OR</u>						
If sample size is less than 40 no more than 1 sample is below 0.2 ppm						
Typical Sources: Water additive used to control microbes						
Disinfectant Name	Time Period	Results	Number of Samples Below Level	Sample Size	TT Violation	MRDL
Chlorine	December, 2022	<u>Lowest period</u> percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 100%	0	15	No	4.0 ppm

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System								
Contaminant Name	Time Period	90 th Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90 th Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90 th Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	09/26/2022 to 10/03/2022	0.09	60	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	04/04/2022 to 06/21/2022	1.5	61	ppb	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	04/04/2022 to 06/21/2022	0.05	61	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	09/26/2022 to 10/03/2022	1	60	ppb	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System									
Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022	2.72	0 to 5.4	20	ppb	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022	21.46	4.1 to 50	20	ppb	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Summary of Turbidity Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System					
Contaminant Name	Sample Date	Level Found	TT Requirement	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Date/Month: Jul	<u>Highest single</u> measurement: 0.378 NTU	Maximum 5 NTU for any single measurement	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	Month: Dec	<u>Lowest monthly percentage</u> of samples meeting TT requirement for our technology: 100 %	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.1 NTU	No	Soil Runoff

Radionuclides Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Combined Uranium	2020	6.04	6.04 to 6.04	1	ppb	30	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Arsenic	2022	1.2	1.2 to 1.2	1	ppb	10	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2022	0.03	0.03 to 0.03	1	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	2022	0.16	0.16 to 0.16	1	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2022	2.9	2.9 to 2.9	1	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants**

**Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Sodium	2022	37	37 to 37	1	ppm	N/A

Unregulated Contaminants***

EPA has implemented the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA uses the results of UCMR monitoring to learn about the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to decide whether or not these contaminants will be regulated in the future. We performed monitoring and reported the analytical results of the monitoring to EPA in accordance with its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Once EPA reviews the submitted results, the results are made available in the EPA’s National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) (epa.gov/dwucmr/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod) Consumers can review UCMR results by accessing the NCOD. Contaminants that were detected during our UCMR sampling and the corresponding analytical results are provided below.

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure

Unregulated Contaminants***

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Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure

***More information about the contaminants that were included in UCMR monitoring can be found at: drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule-UCMR. Learn more about the EPA UCMR at: epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.



Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions

Non-Health-Based Violations

These violations do not usually mean that there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Name	Description	Time Period
LEAD & COPPER RULE	FAILURE TO MONITOR AND/OR REPORT	07/01/2022 – 10/18/2022
LEAD & COPPER RULE	FAILURE TO INFORM HOMEOWNER OF LEAD RESULTS	10/01/2022 - 11/10/2022

Additional Violation Information

Non-Health-Based Violations

These violations do not usually mean that there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Name	Description	Time Period
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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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Sterling

Monitoring Requirements Not Met

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

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 Round 1 of 2022's lead and copper samples, the lab processing the analysis did not provide results in a timely manner. Results were received after the reporting deadline, so a violation was issued for not completing lead and copper testing requirements. The results of these analysis are published on page 3 (above) in our annual Consumer Confidence Report. Please review this information and understand that all required samples are accounted for and water quality is not in question, however timeline factors were not met so a violation was issued.

What does this mean? What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What is being done?

- This violation was resolved by submitting sample results. The lab that caused this violation is no longer used for City of Sterling water quality monitoring.

This violation was resolved on 10/18/2022. For more information, please contact **David Beck** at **beck@sterlingcolo.com** or **970-521-2755**, or **PO Box 4000**.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by: City of Sterling - 0138045

Date distributed: **Prior to 6/30/2023**

Non-Health-Based Violations

These violations do not usually mean that there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Name	Description	Time Period
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Sterling

Did Not Provide Consumer with Lead Tap Results

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. After the sample is analyzed we must timely notify the consumer of their lead sample results and certify to the state drinking water program we notified all consumers using the required language.

In this instance, the laboratory trusted to analyze our samples was unable to submit results to CDPHE until after the notification timeline expired. **ALL** samples have been accounted for and were below regulatory limits, however since reporting timeline factors were not met, we are required to notify the public of dangers associated with lead. Furthermore, results of these tests are published in the above section of our CCR report, where you can see there were **NO** health concerns detected.

What does this mean? What should I do?

- Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.
- **How to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water**
 - **Run your water to flush out lead.** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
 - **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
 - **Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.**
 - **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
 - **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare

Non-Health-Based Violations

These violations do not usually mean that there was a problem with the water quality. If there had been, we would have notified you immediately. We missed collecting a sample (water quality is unknown), we reported the sample result after the due date, or we did not complete a report/notice by the required date.

Name	Description	Time Period
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provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified **within 24 hours**. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. **However**, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder. Visit epa.gov/lead for more information.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

- This violation was resolved on November 10th 2022 when the Certificate of Delivery was submitted to CDPHE.

This violation was resolved on **11/10/2022**. For more information, please contact **David Beck** at beck@sterlingcolo.com or **970-520-0458**, or **PO Box 4000 Sterling Colorado 80751**.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by: City of Sterling - CO0138045
Date distributed: **Prior to June 30th 2023**

The following letter is correspondence from the Laboratory regarding the missed reporting deadlines

August 15th, 2022
David Beck
Water Treatment Superintendent
City of Sterling, Public Works Department
PO Box 4000, Sterling, Colorado 80751
970.521.2755

Dear Mr. Beck,
Eurofins Eaton Analytical Monrovia (EEA-M) will take the opportunity of this letter to explain the missed reporting deadlines for August 10th, 2022 and our current plans for future compliance for 10th of the month reporting deadlines.

It is important to clearly note that in all cases, the reason why our drinking water compliance data are missing regulatory deadlines is the sole responsibility of Eurofins Eaton Analytical in Monrovia, and not any fault of our clients.

Although we have made significant improvements since the implementation of our new LIMS (TALS) we still are not fully completing all reports and deliverables to clients by the deadlines, either regulatory mandated, or client requirements for reports several days before the 10th of the month. Our login problems are behind us, with samples being logged into TALS within a day of receipt, while kept at the method required temperatures until this occurs. We are now moving samples through our system and the levels of review (primary by the analyst and secondary by a peer or supervisor) before issuing final reports. Although this an obviously positive change, there are a large number of samples to process.

We have asked for and received assistance throughout the Eurofins network of over 2 dozen individuals to assist in correcting course for a variety of issues, including improving laboratory throughput and final data reports. These additional personnel are working here in our lab and remotely, in order to ensure our laboratory returns to the normal throughput to which our clients were accustomed before our LIMS transition. This assistance has now begun to show benefits as we have moved thousands of reports over the last week, recently releasing 3 times the number of samples received in a given day.

We apologize for any inconvenience the lack of data for the above noted analysis has caused you. We are taking all available steps to bring our reporting back in line with regulatory and client contractual expectations. This transition is challenging and we expect to work through road blocks in the near future by utilizing those trained within our network on the system for support.

Eduardo Rodriguez
Laboratory Director
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC

Nilda Cox
Quality Assurance/Regulatory Manager
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC

Rachelle Arada
Client Service Manager
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC