

# South Blount County Utility District Water Quality Report for 2023

## 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 in the chart on the back, we only detected a few of these contaminants.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Tellico Lake. 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 this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The South Blount County Utility District source was 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 <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact South Blount County Utility District to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

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 (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Quentin Caldwell at 865-982-3560 Ext. 1004.**

## How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at 320 Partnership Parkway. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

## 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 of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request.

## 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.

- 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, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. South Blount County Utility District's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. 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 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 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

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. South Blount County Utility District 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

## Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 865-982-3560.

## Pharmaceuticals In Drinking Water

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Learn more about disposing of unused medicines at <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

# Water Quality Data 2022

## What does this chart mean?

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections: Lowest to Highest	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	No	0	0	2023	cfu's = colony forming units	0	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli.	No	0	0	2023	Presence or Absence	0	<2 positive samples per Month ***	Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity**	No	0.02	0.01 to 0.06	2022	NTU	n/a	TT 95% of samples to be <0.3 NTU in a given month	Soil runoff
Sodium	No	5.85 mg/l	n/a	2-8-22	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	0.171/mg/l	n/a	7-7-22	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	.3435	.308 to .372	10-5-22	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Chlorine	No	1.80	1.51 to 2.23	2022	ppm	4 MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	No	53	25 to 71	5-3-23	ppb	0	80	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	56	35 to 70	5-3-23	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Lead	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 2.5	0 of 30 Exceeding action level	3/15/23	ppb	0	Action Level = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.158	0 of 30 Exceeding action level	3/15/23	ppm	0	Action Level = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

### \*Additional Monitoring Data

Parameter	Avg Level Detected
<b>Iron</b>	<b>0.02 ppm</b>
<b>Alkalinity Avg</b>	<b>41 ppm</b>
<b>Hardness Avg</b>	<b>39 ppm</b>
<b>Ph Avg</b>	<b>7.69 ppm</b>
<b>Manganese</b>	<b>0.010 ppm</b>

\*South Blount County Utility District's water meets all existing standards for safe water. In addition to the required testing, SBCUD tests for many additional parameters. Most of the substances tested for were not found in our water. This table includes the results for additional parameters that were detected.

\*\*South Blount County Utility District met the treatment technique for turbidity with 100% of monthly samples below the turbidity limit of 0.3 ntu.

\*\*\*E. coli: A system is in compliance with the MCL for E. coli for samples unless any of the conditions identified in parts 1 through 4 occur.

1. The system has an E. coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform positive routine sample.
2. The system has a total coliform positive repeat sample following an E. coli-positive routine sample.
3. The system fails to take all required repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample.
4. The system fails to test for E. coli when any repeat sample tests positive for total coliform.

South Blount County Utility District will be collecting samples for the EPA ucmr3 to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water but do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Assessment monitoring targets contaminants that are analyzed with methods that utilize existing and widely used technology.

The service of providing quality tap water is often taken for granted when we turn on a faucet in our homes, but we can tell you from experience it is no easy task to provide this quality service. We manage one of the greatest natural resources on earth, which is essential for life. Our earth is covered in 70% water and only 1.6% is fresh water. We have a phenomenal team of people at S.B.C.U.D. that are proud to provide this quality service to Blount County. We operate on the principle of proactively planning today, so we will be prepared tomorrow. As a customer, you are very important to us and a very important part of this business, and we thank you. If you have questions or problems or a specific need related to our service, please contact our office at any time.

The commissioners of the South Blount County Utility District serve 4-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Blount County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners under the District'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) of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

### 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 over 340 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties, to find a convenient location please visit: <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

