

**BELMONT COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT - DISTRICT 3  
DRINKING WATER CONSUMER REPORT FOR 2024**

The Belmont County Water & Sewer District 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.

The Belmont County Water & Sewer District - District 3 water supply is located North of Bellaire, Ohio, from a well that is supplied by the aquifer in the region.

**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 grounds, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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 chemicals 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations established 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 infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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 (BCWSD)**

An assessment that was conducted by the Ohio EPA places the well aquifer at a HIGH susceptibility rating due to the following: (A) Presence of a relatively permeable layer of silty clay overlying the aquifer; (B) Shallow depth (less than 20 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer; (C) The identification of VOC contaminated soils within the one year time of travel; (D) Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area; (E) The presence of manmade contaminants in treated water. To obtain a copy of the report or for more information contact, Kelly Porter, Director, Belmont County Water & Sewer District at 740-695-3144.

## **About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Belmont County Water & Sewer District conducted sampling for synthetic organic in 2024, and bacteria and volatile organic contaminants during 2024.

The Ohio EPA requires monitoring for a few contaminants less than once a year because they do not change frequently.

Other regulated contaminants that the district tested with no violation being found are as follows: antimony, arsenic, beryllium, thallium, lead, atrazine, simazine, and copper.

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. The Belmont County Water & Sewer 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw> or by calling 614-644-2752. 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 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Definitions for terms and abbreviations used in the report are as follows:**

**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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MCLGs allowed for a margin of safety.

**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 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.

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

**Not Detected (ND):** Not Detected.

**Not Applicable (NA):** Not applicable.

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** Are units of measure of a contaminant.

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

In 2024 the Belmont County Water & Sewer District had a current unconditional license to operate our system.

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Belmont County Commissioners which meet on Wednesdays at the Belmont County Courthouse, Main Street, St. Clairsville, OH 43950. For more information contact Commissioners at 740-699-2155.

On the following page is information on those contaminants that were found in the Belmont County Water & Sewer District.

Table of detected contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	46	46-46	NO	2024	Discharge of drilling waste. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	2.87	2.87	NO	2024	Leaching from metal alloys.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.584	.584-.584	NO	2024	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha pCi/L	0	15	0.112	0.112	NO	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5.0	0.668	N/A	NO	2020	Erosion of natural deposits;
The MCL for Radium is comprised of both Radium 226 and Radium 228. Known as Combined Radium 226/228							
<b>Residual Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	0.91	.67-1.00	NO	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acid 5 (ppb)	N/A	60	14.6	4.11-18.6	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	34.7	4.7-62.3	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL		90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	none		2.72	NO	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	none		0.475	NO	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Zero out of 120 samples collected for copper were above the action level of 1.3 ppm Zero out of 120 samples collected for lead were above the action level of 15 ppb							

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.