



## WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM AND HOW IS IT PROTECTED?

The District has two water treatment facilities. The W. Guy Metcalf Water Treatment Plant is located in Ross Township. It began operation in 1972, was expanded in 1980, and is capable of producing 3.6 million gallons per day (an average household uses about 200 gallons per day). The three production wells are about 90 feet deep and each one can produce 2.3 million gallons per day. In 2020 the plant produced 741 million gallons. Approximately 8,400 customers are currently served by this plant under the normal operating conditions illustrated on page one. The North Water Treatment Plant is located in St. Clair Township. It began operation in 1997, was expanded in 2005, and is capable of producing 6 million gallons per day. The four production wells are about 180 feet deep and each can produce 2 million gallons per day. In 2020 this plant produced 670 million gallons. Approximately 6,900 customers are currently served by this plant under normal operating conditions.

The District also has emergency supply connections with the cities of Hamilton, Middletown, and Trenton. During 2020 the District purchased roughly 6,000 gallons from the emergency interconnection with the City of Hamilton.

The wells at both treatment plants draw water from the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. The Ohio EPA, in 2003, determined that this very productive aquifer has high susceptibility to contamination, owing to the sensitivity of the aquifer itself and to the presence of potential contaminant sources. The high susceptibility is confirmed by the presence of nitrates in our treated water. This indicates manmade influence, but the concentrations are well below the federal and state drinking water standard of 10 parts per million. For more information about our Source Water, please call our Operations and Maintenance Manager, Dustan Marshall, at (513) 863-0828.

The District is a member of the Hamilton to New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium. Along with Butler County Water & Sewer Dept., the cities of Hamilton, Fairfield and Cincinnati, Miller-Coors Brewery, and Southwestern Ohio Water Company, we share the costs associated with monitoring and protecting the aquifer and our wells. Consortium members have worked very hard to develop and implement a comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan to help prevent contaminants from entering the aquifer. The plan contains an education component, source water protection strategies, and a contingency/emergency plan. The Consortium's website has more information at [www.gwconsortium.org](http://www.gwconsortium.org).

The District belongs to the National Rural Water Association, and the Ohio Rural Water Association, both of which represent water systems on issues with the EPA and other governmental entities that regulate and protect water supplies and finished water quality. District employees maintain individual memberships with the American Water Works Association.

## WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION TO DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled, 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. It 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 healthcare providers. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## SPECIAL INFORMATION ON LEAD 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. Southwest Regional Water 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In June through September of 2020, the District conducted sampling of lead and copper at 30 residences throughout the system. One sample indicated an elevated lead level (330ug/l), but upon 3 repeat samples at the same location the elevated levels were not found. Zero out of 30 samples were over the action level for Copper. Results are included on page 4 of this document.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING INFORMATION

During 2020 the District performed all water quality monitoring required by the Ohio EPA under the Ohio Administrative Code. Since 2001 we have conducted testing required by USEPA to monitor for several currently unregulated contaminants. We test raw water in our own labs daily for hardness, alkalinity, pH, chlorides and fluoride. For finished water we conduct the same daily tests plus iron, stability, coliform bacteria and chlorine. You may make arrangements to review any of our testing data by calling Dustan Marshall, Operations and Maintenance Manager at 513-863-0828.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

MCL	- Maximum Contaminant Level – Highest allowed level of a contaminant in drinking water.
MCLG	- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – Level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected health risk.
MRDL	- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level—Highest allowed level of a disinfectant.
MRDLG	- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal—Level of disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk.
mg/L	- milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm). About one inch in 16 miles or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.
ug/L	- micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb). About one inch in 16,000 miles or one penny in 10 million dollars.
pCi/L	- Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water. A Picocurie is $10^{-12}$ curies and is the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.
AL	- Action Level (for lead and copper) The 90th percentile detection level must exceed the AL before action is required.
<	- Less than.
NA	- Not Applicable.
ND	- Non-Detect.

## WATER THEFT IS ILLEGAL

Ohio Revised Code 4933.19 requires each water-works company to notify its customers, on an annual basis, that tampering with or bypassing a meter constitutes a theft offense that could result in the imposition of criminal sanctions.

“ This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).”

### 2020 Water Quality Data Table

All samples were taken in 2020 unless otherwise noted

				North Treatment Plant			W.Guy Metcalf Treatment Plant			
Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL Violation	Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminants
Nitrate	mg/L	10	10	2.52	NA	no	2.93	NA	no	Fertilizers, sewage, and natural deposits
Fluoride	mg/L	4	4	1	0.78-1.24	no	0.96	0.83-1.03	no	Naturally present; added during treatment
Barium	mg/L	2	2	0.031	NA	no	ND	NA	no	Drilling wastes, metal refineries and natural deposits
				Distribution System						
Total Chlorine	mg/L	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.94	0.46 - 1.46	no	0.84	0.52 - 1.15	no	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	ug/L	80	NA	10.4	10.3 - 10.4	no	10.3	10.3 - 10.4	no	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Lead	ug/l	AL= 15	15	**<0.3	<0.3	no	**<0.3	<0.3-330	no	Corrosion of household plumbing and natural deposits
Copper	mg/L	AL = 1.3	1.3	**0.964	0.164 - 0.290	no	**0.964	0.069 - 1.11	no	Corrosion of household plumbing and natural deposits
** 90th percentile of samples tested; value required for reporting										