

West Helena Water

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand, and be involved in, the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our sources of water are four wells that pump from the Sparta Sand Aquifer.

How Safe Is The Source Of Our Drinking Water?

The Arkansas Department of Health has completed a Source Water Vulnerability Assessment for West Helena Water. The assessment summarizes the potential for contamination of our sources of drinking water and can be used as a basis for developing a source water protection plan. Based on the various criteria of the assessment, our water sources have been determined to have a medium susceptibility to contamination. You may request a summary of the Source Water Vulnerability Assessment from our office.

What Contaminants Can Be In Our Drinking Water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 assure tap water is safe to drink, EPA has 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.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5)

Warren water and sewer participated in the fifth series of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The results of this monitoring will provide new data that will improve our understanding of the frequency that 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium are found in our water, as well the nation's drinking water systems, and at what levels. The monitoring data on PFAS and lithium will help the EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The data will also ensure science-based decision-making, help our system and the EPA better understand whether these contaminants in drinking water disproportionately impact communities with environmental justice concerns, and allow the EPA, states, Tribes, and water systems to target solutions.

Am I at Risk?

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. However, 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 small amounts of contamination. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. In addition, EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Lead and 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. We are 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>.

How Can I Learn More About Our Drinking Water?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Saeed Rose, General Manager, at 870-816-7460. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Our water system currently holds meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 PM, at Helena City Hall. If you want to learn more, please contact Saeed Rose at the number listed above.

TEST RESULTS

We routinely monitor constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lithium - a chemical element of the alkali metal group that is the lightest metal known and that is used especially in alloys and glass, in mechanical lubricants, and in storage batteries.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - unenforceable public health 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.

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 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

Parts per billion (ppb) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) - a unit of measurement for detected levels of contaminants in drinking water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - a measure of the radioactivity in water.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	N	Average: 0.96 Range: 0.65 – 1.32	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
LEAD AND COPPER TAP MONITORING						
Contaminants	Number of Tap Samples	Number of Sites over Action Level	90 th Percentile Result	Unit	Action Levels	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	20	0	0.002	ppm	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	20	2	0.953	ppm	1.3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ We are currently on a reduced monitoring schedule and required to sample once every three years for lead and copper at the customers’ taps. The results above are from our last monitoring period in 2023. Our next required monitoring period is in 2026.♦ As part of our ongoing efforts to comply with federal regulations, we have developed a service line inventory to identify potential lead service lines within our system. A copy of the inventory is available from our office upon request.♦ 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.						
REGULATED DISINFECTANTS						
Disinfectant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MRDLG (Public Health Goal)	MRDL (Allowable Level)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Chlorine	N	Average: 0.87 Range: 0.07 – 2.07	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
BY-PRODUCTS OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG (Public Health Goal)	MCL (Allowable Level)	
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids]	N	9.99	ppb	0	60	
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	28.2	ppb	NA	80	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ We are currently on a reduced monitoring schedule and required to sample one quarter every year for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in the distribution system.						

VIOLATIONS – West Helena Water			
TYPE: State Licensing	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:
State licensing regulations were not met	1/1/2024	7/31/2024	Water system operator obtained license in compliance with state regulations
TYPE: Ground Water Rule Compliance	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:
Failure to address a Significant Deficiency as specified by the Ground Water Rule	2/1/2024	9/30/2024	Deficiency has not been addressed/corrected.
TYPE: Public Notice Rule	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:
Failed to conduct a public notice regarding licensing within the mandated timeframe	1/1/2024	11/18/2024	Public notice conducted in November 2024.
TYPE: Public Notice Rule	FROM:	TO:	CORRECTIVE ACTION:
Failed to conduct a public notice regarding deficiency within the mandated timeframe	8/1/2024	11/18/2024	Public notice conducted in November 2024.
	12/1/2024	12/31/2024	No corrective action taken.

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY – West Helena Water

Under the new Ground Water Rule, each Water Treatment System must be surveyed (audited) by the Arkansas Department of Health and all uncorrected Significant Deficiencies must be identified, corrected, and reported to the public. The following was reported September 6, 2023, upon inspection.

Nature of Deficiencies

No tank inspections in the last 5 years, cross-connection control program not enforced, and budget, personnel, maintenance or repair parts to meet regulatory requirements.

Progress to Date

Cross-connection program active and in place; Sealed the roof of the clearwell and screen was placed on the overflow of clearwell. New manager in place.