

2020 Consumer Confidence Report for Bedford City Utilities

Is my water safe? We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. **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 drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791). **Where does my water come from?** Bedford City Utilities gets their water from the East Fork of White River. **Source water assessment and its availability.** A source water assessment can be reviewed by calling Bedford City Utilities at (812)-275-1626. **Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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 that 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. **How can I get involved?** Board of Works meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at the City Concourse, 1402 H St at 4PM. **Description of Water Treatment Process.** Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community. **Cross Source Water Protection Tips.** Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- You have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly: take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead. 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. Illinois Street Treatment Plant 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>.

Contaminants	MCL/G	MCL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
	or MRDL/G	TT, or MRDL		Low	High			
Microbiological Contaminants	NA	0.3	100%	.02	.22	2020	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (NTU)								

100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a violation. The highest single measurement was .22. Any measurement in excess of 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.

MNR: Monitored Not Regulated **MPL:** State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

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Important Drinking Water Definitions and Unit Descriptions

MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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 a drinking water disinfectant per liter (mg/L) / ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) / pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Water Quality Data Table In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions table.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. NA: Not applicable. ND: Not detected. NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products	MCLG		MCL		Detect In	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Variances or Exceptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique Under certain conditions Typical Source
	MRDLG	or	TT, or	MRDL		Low	High			

(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)

Halacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA		60		39		26	53.3	2020	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4		4		1		NA	NA	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA		80		61		33.5	96.3	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants

Barium (ppm)	2		2		.043		NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4		4		.7		5	1	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10		10		2		NA	NA	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100		100		1.4		NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants

Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0		15		.52		NA	NA	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228)	0		5		1.2		NA	NA	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides: The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected in your water

Atrazine (ppb)	3		3		.6		NA	.6	2020	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Simazine (ppb)	4		4		.07		NA	NA	2020	No	Herbicide runoff
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50		50		.1		NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from chemical factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
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Inorganic Contaminants

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3		1.3		.095		0	0	2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0		15		2.2		0	0	2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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