

South Amherst Public Water Systems (PWS) Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For the 2023 Calendar Year



Introduction

The South Amherst PWS 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.

Source Water Information

South Amherst PWS receives its drinking water from Avon Lake Regional Water (AVON LAKE PWS) via Rural Lorain County Water Authority. Avon Lake Regional Water receives its drinking water from Lake Erie. In Avon Lake, there are two separate intakes to ensure our ability to pump from this virtually endless source of quality raw water.

Avon Lake Regional Water treats water to meet EPA drinking water quality standards. A Source Water Assessment Report was prepared for Avon Lake Regional Water by Ohio EPA. Copies of the complete source water assessment report prepared for Avon Lake are available by contacting Greg Yuronich at (440) 933-3229.

Excerpt from Drinking Water Source Assessment for the City of Avon Lake 6.0 SUSCEPTIBILITY ANALYSIS:

For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens with relatively short travel times from source to intake. Based on the information compiled for this assessment, the Avon Lake Water System drinking water source protection area (CAZ) is susceptible to contamination from municipal waste water treatment discharges, industrial waste water discharges, air contamination deposition, combined sewer overflows, runoff from residential, agricultural and urban areas, oil and gas production and transportation, and accidental releases and spills from rail and vehicular traffic as well as from commercial shipping operations and recreational boating.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. While the source water for the City of Avon Lake is considered susceptible to contamination, historically, the Avon Lake Public Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

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 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 the Federal 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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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).

About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The South Amherst PWS conducted sampling for microbiological contaminants, disinfectants and disinfection byproducts, inorganic contaminants (tested by wholesaler at their entry point-Avon Lake Regional Water), and lead and copper during 2023. Samples were collected for a total of ten different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the South Amherst PWS water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for

some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Monitoring & Reporting Violations and Enforcement Actions

During the month of January 2023, South Amherst PWS failed to submit the professional operator of record minimum staffing times for the facility. The violation was corrected by submitting the required documents.

During the month of April 2023, South Amherst PWS failed to submit the professional operator of record minimum staffing times for the facility. The violation was corrected by submitting the required report.

Monitoring requirements not met for Rural Lorain County Water Authority

Rural Lorain County Water Authority is required to monitor your drinking water for corrosion control indicators. During the July-December 2023 monitoring period, Rural Lorain County Water Authority failed to collect water quality parameter samples at the correct frequency required by Ohio EPA.

Upon being notified of this violation, Rural Lorain County Water Authority will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Rural Lorain County Water Authority at:

Contact Person: Joseph Waldecker
Phone Number: (440) 355-5121
Mailing Address: 4240 State Route 303, Lagrange, OH 44050
PWSID: OH4701803 Facility ID: 4755827
Date Distributed: Included on CCR

Table of Detected Contaminants

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the South Amherst PWS.

SOUTH AMHERST PWS TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS 2023							
Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.02	0.02 to 0.20	No	2023	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	100%	No	2023	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	NA	TT	1.32	1.00 to 1.70	No	2023	Naturally present in the environment
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.605	0.48 to 0.8	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	14.6	12.3 to 14.6	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	39.1	38.7 to 39.1	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (TESTED BY WHOLESALE AT THEIR ENTRY POINT-AVON LAKE REGIONAL WATER)							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	NA	No	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.69	0.69 to 1.20	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.96	0.134 to 0.96	No	2023	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD AND COPPER						
	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Sample Year	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	1	<2.0 ug/L	Yes	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	1 out of 10 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.					
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	NA	0.54 ug/L	No	2023	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems
	Zero out of 10 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.					

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the South Amherst PWS’s highest recorded turbidity result for 2023 was 0.02 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Lead Educational Information

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 Amherst PWS 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2023, South Amherst had an unconditioned license to operate the public water system.
PWS ID: OH4701411 Facility: 4755825

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the South Amherst Village council which meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Village of South Amherst Town Hall located at 103 West Main St., South Amherst, Ohio. Meetings are open to the public. You may call our water clerk at 440-986-2222, Ext 1 for further meeting information or for more information on your drinking water. South Amherst Village council meetings schedule, agendas, minutes, Consumer Confidence Reports, and other Village information can also be found on our website <https://villageofsouthamherst.com/>.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 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 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.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Contact Time (CT) means the mathematical product of a “residual disinfectant concentration” (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding “disinfectant contact time” (T).
- Cyanobacteria: Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- Cyanotoxin: Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as “algal toxin”.
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The “<” symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.