Town of Tellico Plains
Water Quality Report for 20231998

Is my drinking water safe?
Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 7 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?
Your water comes from a true groundwater water source known as the Shady Dolomite formation, from two wellfields known as the town plant located in downtown Tellico Plains just off of Bank Street and the Rural Vale wellfield located on Daugherty Springs road right beside the Rural Vale Elementary. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants, and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to ***potential*** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to ***potential*** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Tellico Plains sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.
An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to the EPA can be viewed at https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.
A wellhead protection plan is available for review by contacting Troy Taubert at the Town of Tellico Plains.

Why are there contaminants in my 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Troy Taubert, Water Plant Operator, at 423-253-2333.
Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

How can I get involved?
The Tellico Plains Water Board meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Community Center located on Bank Street in Tellico Plains. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The City Council members in Tellico Plains are elected every two years.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?
The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information
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:

- 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe 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.

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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in 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. Tellico Plains Water 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

Water System Security
Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 423-253-2333.

Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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 - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant 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 the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- ND – Non Detect

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria RTCR₁	No	0		2023		N/A	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Copper*	No	90% = 0.185 ppm		2022	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*	No	90% = 1.44 ppb		2022	ppb	15	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	3.02 ppm	2.76-3.02	2023	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Nitrate	No	0.953	.384-.953	2023	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM	No	3.56 ppb	0 –3.56 ppb	2023	ppb	80	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	No	1.43 ppb	0 – 1.43 ppb	2023	ppb	60	60 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	No	1.53 ppm Avg.	0.7 – 2.4 ppm	2023	ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	MRDL = 4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.
Barium	No	0.066	0.058-0.066	2023	ppm		2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion from natural deposits

* During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

1. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring Requirement Not Met for
Town of Tellico Plains

Tellico Plains violated a drinking water standard. Even though this was not an emergency, you as a customer have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During ***July 2023***, we did not monitor for ***coliforms at all monitoring locations*** and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should you do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of valid samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Coliforms	7 per month	6	July	August

What happened? What is being done?
Tellico was required to collect 7 distribution bacteria samples in July of 2023 and only collected 6 samples. This error was due to the certified operator leaving and staff receiving guidance from TDEC directing them to collect 6 samples per month. In August and every other month in 2023 the correct number of samples were collected.
For more information, please contact Troy Taubert at *423-253-2333* or *405 Veterans Memorial drive, Tellico Plains TN, 37385.*
Please share this information with everyone who may drink this water, including those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.
This notice is being sent to you by ***Tellico Plains.*** State Water System ID# ***0000693.***
Date distributed: June 2024 by CCR.

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What should you do?
There is nothing you need to do at this time.
The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of valid samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Chlorine	Continuous	hundreds	July and August	Continuous recording resumed in Sept

What happened? What is being done?
Tellico was required to continuously monitor chlorine levels entering the distribution system at the Rural Vale Water plant. In July the chlorine analyzer failed and was replaced by a new chlorine analyzer which was not properly communicating with the record keeping software. Chlorine results were monitored and automatic shutdown of this facility for low chlorine was in place and operating. However the data results were not being properly stored resulting in this notification.
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Quality On Tap!
Our Commitment Our Profession