

## South County Water System

The South County Water System strives to produce the best quality drinking water possible. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information about your drinking water. The report explains to you where your water comes from and the treatment it receives before it reaches your tap. The report also lists all of the contaminants detected in your water and an explanation of any violations in the past year.

Your drinking water originally comes from Lake Erie via the City of Toledo water treatment and distribution system. South County Water System receives City of Toledo water at four points. Two small connections, one at Summit Street and the other at Bahiamar and the state line. These connections serve small neighborhoods unreachable by our main system. The primary connections from Toledo to our system are the main pumping stations and reservoirs located on Lewis Avenue and Dixie Highway. Each station has a storage capacity of two million gallons and a pumping capacity of 12 million gallons per day. The water that is stored at these stations may be re-chlorinated as it is pumped into our distribution system. However, we have not had to do so since 2012 due to the increased chlorine levels from Toledo. Our distribution system consists of approximately 290 miles of water mains connecting four elevated water towers. Each tower has a capacity of five hundred thousand gallons.

The South County Water Department continually strives to improve the system and its service. In 2014, the entire South County Water System was applied to a GIS mapping system. This computer-based system layout helps our fire departments locate hydrants more efficiently in emergency situations.

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. More information about the contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791. (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, persons 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of the infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>).

As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. Water can also be polluted by:

- Microbial contaminants (viruses and bacteria) which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock, or wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants (salts and metals) which can be natural or may result from storm runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and farming. 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 line and home plumbing. South County Water System 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 it 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>.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also originate from gas stations, storm runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive substances, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

### Who Do I Contact?

South County Water System is operated by personnel employed by the Monroe County Drain Commissioner, David P. Thompson. The maintenance and billing office is located at 9489 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, Michigan 48182. The phone number is (734) 847-0579 and the fax number is (734) 847-4053. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For water emergencies after hours, call the Monroe County Sheriff at (734) 243-7070. They will contact South County Water System personnel.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. If you would like more information about your water, please call the South County Water System office at (734) 847-0579.

## Water Quality Data

Each year, the system is required to sample the drinking water for various contaminants. The table below lists all contaminants that were detected in 2023. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than annually because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to change frequently. The most recent results of these tests are also included in the table.

The City of Toledo continuously monitors your drinking water above and beyond Federal and State laws. The table below shows our monitoring results for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. These test results confirm that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements, and that **ALL DETECTED CONTAMINANTS ARE BELOW ALLOWED LEVELS**. Not listed are the hundreds of contaminations tested for, but not detected in our water.

### Regulated Inorganic Parameters (sampled at the plant tap) City of Toledo

Parameter	Sample Year	Units	Level Found	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation?	Likely Sources
Barium	2015	ppm	0.10	NA	2	2	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from drilling wastes and metal refineries.
Chlorine	2023	ppm	1.32	1.18-1.34	4.0	4.0	NO	Additive used to control microbes.
Fluoride	2023	ppm	1.00	0.97-1.03	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	2023	ppm	2.95	<0.2 – 2.95	10	10	NO	Erosion and natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use, and septic tank leaching.

### Synthetic Organic Parameters including Pesticides and Herbicides (sampled at the plant tap) City of Toledo

Atrazine	2017	ppb	0.18	NA	3	3	NO	Runoff from Herbicide used on row crops.
Simazine	2016	ppb	Nd	NA	4	4	NO	Herbicide runoff.

### Radioactive Parameters

Alpha	2018	pCi/L	<3	NA	NA	15	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
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### Regulated Microbiological Parameters (sampled at the plant tap) City of Toledo

Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	2023	Ntu	0.38	0.02-0.38	None	TT	NO	Soil runoff, suspended matter in lake water.
TOC <sup>2</sup>	2023	See note 2	1.33	0.83-2.58	None	TT	NO	Naturally present in the environment.

### Copper and Lead Testing<sup>3</sup> (sampled in the Distribution System at individual taps) sampled in South County Water System

Copper <sup>3</sup>	2023	ppm	0.0	0.0 ppm – 0.0 ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead <sup>3</sup>	2023	ppb	0	0 ppb – 7ppb	15	AL = 15	No	Corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures, Erosion of natural deposits

### Regulated Organic Parameters (sampled in the South County Water System using LRRR figures)

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>4</sup>	2023	ppb	6.70	1.0 – 16.0	0	60	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) <sup>4</sup>	2023	ppb	36.8	9.0-72.6	0	80	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	2023	ppm	1.10	0.6-1.20	4.0	4.0	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

### Unregulated Contaminants (sampled in the City of Toledo) Threshold

Sodium <sup>6</sup>	2023	ppm	14.25	9.19-29.21	NA	NO		Naturally occurring.
Microcystin <sup>7</sup>	2023	ppb	Nd	Nd	0.3 – Children under the age of 6.	1-6 - anyone		Toxin produced by algal blooms.

1. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the DPA states that all samples must be below 1 ntu and that 95% of the daily samples must be lower than 0.3 ntu. In 2023, 100% of our samples were below 0.3 ntu.

2. TOC stands for Total Organic Carbon. The value reported under "Level Found" for TOC is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value greater than one (1.0) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements. The value reported under the "Range" for TOC is the lowest monthly ratio to the highest monthly ratio. Toledo remained in compliance with TOC removal requirements.

3. In 2018, none of our testing sites exceeded the Action Level for Lead or Copper.

4. Under the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rules (D/DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in our system with elevated Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) concentrations. The locations selected for the IDSE may be used for compliance monitoring under Stage 2 DBPR, beginning in 2012. DBP's are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combined with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. DBP's are grouped into two categories, TTHMs and HAA5s. Some people who drink water containing TTHMs or HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have increased risk of cancer.

5. The MCLG and MCL columns for chlorine are in fact MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) and MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level). MRDL means 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. MRDLG's means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

6. Those concerned with sodium in their diet, 32.4 ppm of sodium equates to 7.57 milligrams of sodium per 8-ounce glass of water.

7. Microcystin is a toxin produced by harmful algal blooms. The 1.00 ppb Do Not Drink Advisory Threshold was established by OEPA and Ohio Department of Public Health. There is no current MCL for Microcystin. For information on Harmful Algal Bloom Response Strategy go to: <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/HABs/PWS HAB Response Strategy 2014.pdf>.

Parameter	Sample Year	Units	Level Found	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation?	Likely Sources
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**Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR4)<sup>4</sup> in Drinking Water (City of Toledo)<sup>4</sup>**

Manganese	2018	ppb	0.478	<0.4-0.777	na	na	No	-
Haloacetic acid (HAA5)	2018	ppb	12.9	5.26-17.54	na	na	No	-
Haloacetic acid (HAA6Br)	2018	ppb	11.2	1.72-14.37	na	na	No	-
Haloacetic acid (HAA9)	2018	ppb	20.81	9.4-14.37	na	na	No	-

For more information on UCMR4 go to: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.


**Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR4)<sup>4</sup> in Drinking Water (South County Water)**

Manganese	2018	Ppb	0.36	0.16-0.87	Na	Na	No	-
Haloacetic acid (HAA5)	2018	Ppb	6.69	2.0-12.1	Na	Na	No	-
Haloacetic acid (HAA9)	2018	Ppb	11.03	2.0-22.3	Na	Na	No	-
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1. Due to sampling method, level found is recorded as highest in range.
2. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.
3. This 2018 UCMR4 data was only recently made available to South County Water.

**Terms and Abbreviations**

- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** Includes HAA5, TTHM, and chlorine. These calculations include data from the last 3 calendar quarters of 2020 while the range of detections includes ONLY the lowest and highest detections from the 4 sets of samples collected in 2020
- **Maximum Contaminated Level (MCL):** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as possible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **N/A:** Not applicable.
- **Nd:** Not detected
- **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **pci/L:** Picocuries per liter.
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- **MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Where Does Your Water Come From?**

The City of Toledo's water comes from Lake Erie. This means that the water you drink comes from a surface water supply, not a well. Raw water is collected by an intake crib. The intake crib is a circular concrete structure, 83 feet in diameter. Water flows into the crib through 16, ten-foot square openings called ports. The water then flows by gravity through a 9-foot diameter pipe to the Low Service Pumping Station located in Jerusalem Township. From there it is pumped to the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant in East Toledo for processing.

The Ohio EPA has completed a Source Water Assessment for the City of Toledo, which uses surface water drawn from Lake Erie. Although the water system's main intake is located offshore, susceptibility of the source water to contamination may be increased by its proximity to the following: municipal sewage treatment plants, industrial wastewater, combined sewer overflows, septic system discharges, open water dredging, agricultural runoff, mining operations, and accidental releases and spills, especially from commercial shipping and recreational boating. The City of Toledo treats

its water to meet and even surpass drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment protocol can address all potential contaminants. If you would like to know more about the report, please contact the South County Water System Office.

South County Water had two violations in 2023. The first is for WQPs, during the monitoring period from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 we did not take the required number of samples. The samples were taken 13 days to early of the monitoring period. This violation doesn't pose a threat to the quality of the drinking water. We are working with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. The second is the 2022 and 2023 CCR was inadvertently missing the typical sources of contaminant for lead. The typical sources are lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits. This information has been updated in the current CCR. PLEASE SEE VIOLATION NOTICE.

South County Water System  
9489 Lewis Avenue  
Temperance, MI 48182

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

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### Water Quality Tips

**Maintaining lawns and gardens:** Keep fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. When choosing a fertilizer, select a flow release formula without phosphorus.

**Washing your automobile:** Direct polluted wash water away from streets and storm drains. Wash your car on your lawn or, even better, go to a car wash that recycles wastewater.

**Repairing your automobile:** Only repair vehicles in areas where leaks and spills cannot flow toward storm drains, or better – take it to a mechanic.

**Caring for pets and other animals:** Clean up animal waste before it rains. Throw it in the trash (do not wrap it in plastic) or flush it down your toilet.

**Disconnecting / redirecting downspouts:** Disconnect downspouts from sewer systems. Direct them into vegetated areas away from building foundations.

**Joining local watershed groups:** Join watershed groups and participate in river watches, storm drain stenciling, or other neighborhood activities.

**Cleaning up debris, spills, and leaks:** Do not use your hose as a broom. Do not wash or sweep debris, spilled or leaked materials into the storm drains.

**Landscaping:** Cover bare ground around vegetation with mulch and seed bare ground as soon as possible to reduce erosion.

**Managing household hazardous waste:** Properly dispose of household hazardous waste and use non-toxic alternatives when possible.

**Installing and repairing plumbing:** Only connect plumbing in your home to the sanitary sewer. Please remember – only rain goes in a storm drain!

**Installing driveways, walkways, and patios:** Use paving materials that are porous and/or sloped toward vegetated areas.

Bedford Township, Erie Township, LaSalle Township, City of Luna Pier

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Monroe South County

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific analytes on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During June 1 to December 31, 2023, we did not monitor for all the water quality parameters (WQPs), and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. However, this violation **does not** pose a threat to your supply's water.

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

The table below lists the analytes we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for this analyte, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date we will collect follow-up samples.

Analytes	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken between	Date samples will be taken by
WQP <sup>1</sup>	10 samples/ quarter	0	October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	March 31, 2024

**What happened? What is being done?** We failed to take and analyze samples for all of the required parameters within the required sampling periods. Monitoring of Water Quality Parameters (WQPs) is an essential part of a corrosion control treatment program and is used to evaluate the potential aggressiveness of water on plumbing and fixtures. Sampling of WQPs is required to safeguard public health. We will continue to work with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

For more information, please contact: Chris Schmidt, Monroe South County, 9489 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, Michigan 48182 Email: [sschmidtscw@frontier.com](mailto:sschmidtscw@frontier.com) Phone: (734) 847-0579

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially 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: Monroe South County

<sup>1</sup> WQP are a group of analytes that are indicators of corrosivity. They can include pH, alkalinity, calcium, conductivity, temperature, sulfate, chloride, and orthophosphate.