

2023 Water Quality Report

Town of Coward

System # SC2110012

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The source of our water is produced from the Black Creek Aquifer by wells located within the town's corporate limits.

A Source Water Assessment Plan has been prepared for our system. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Terry Floyd at 843-389-2585. We want you, our neighbors and valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. Feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of every month at six o'clock at the town hall.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. The Town of Coward routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes and chemicals. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. In this table you will find the following terms and abbreviations:

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

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - 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 - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

TEST RESULTS
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LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS							
Lead and Copper	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2021)	1.3	1.3	0.24	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (2021)	0	15	0.95	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Highest level	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (2022)	RAA 1.0	0.87-1.45	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2022)	2.0	1.5 – 1.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (HAAs) (2022)	4.0	3.8-3.8	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	Highest Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (2021)	0.22	0.16-0.22	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (2023)	0.031	0.031 - 0.031	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (2021)	24	12-24	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Occurs Naturally
Radioactive Contaminants	Highest Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters* (2020)	6.26	0-6.26	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228 (2020)	0.112	0.0337-0.112	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be a level of concern for Beta particle

All sources of Drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring, or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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. 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

If you have special health needs

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/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).

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. The Town of Coward 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 drinking 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>.

Did You Know?

- ☞ Utility Employees work for you 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to provide you with good safe water each time your tap is opened.
- ☞ Drinking water in the Unites States is the safest in the world.
- ☞ You can refill an 8-ounce glass of water 15,000 times for the same cost as a 6 pack of soda. And, water has no sugar or caffeine.
- ☞ The average family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times per day.
- ☞ Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of water per day.
- ☞ Lack of water is the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.