# 2024 Consumer Confidence

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

# The Water We Drink

# City of Tomah Water Utility PWS ID: 64202545

### *Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

## Water System Information

## We are pleased to provide you with this year’s Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide you with safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water is groundwater wells. We have five wells that supply the City of Tomah.

## We have a well-head protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Jeff Marten at (608) 374-7433.** We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers in City Hall.**

## Health Information

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).

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 systems 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

## Source(s) of Water

| **Source ID** | **Source** | **Depth (in feet)** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 | Groundwater | 325 | Active |
| 10 | Groundwater | 251 | Active |
| 11 | Groundwater | 240 | Active |
| 12 | Groundwater | 240 | Active |
| 14 | Groundwater | 240 | Active |

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact Jeff Marten at (608) 374-7433.

## Educational 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 include:

* Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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.
* 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

## Definitions

| **Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| AL | Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| HA and HAL | HA: Health Advisory. An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information. HAL: Health Advisory Level is a concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA. |
| HI | HI: Hazard Index: A Hazard Index is used to assess the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of contaminants. Hazard Index guidance for a class of contaminants or mixture of contaminants may be determined by the US EPA or Wisconsin Department of Health Services. If a Health Index is exceeded a system may be required to post a public notice. |
| Level 1 Assessment | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. |
| Level 2 Assessment | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| MFL | million fibers per liter |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| mrem/year | millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body) |
| NTU | Nephelometric Turbidity Units |
| pCi/l | picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| ppm | parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) |
| ppb | parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) |
| ppt | parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter |
| PHGS | PHGS: Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. |
| RPHGS | RPHGS: Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. |
| SMCL | Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards. |
| TCR | Total Coliform Rule |
| TT | Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |

## Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

### Disinfection Byproducts

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Site** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Found** | **Range** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** | **Violation** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| HAA5 (ppb) | D-30 | 60 | 60 | 9 | 9 |  | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHM (ppb) | D-31 | 80 | 0 | 2.9 | 2.9 |  | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

### Inorganic Contaminants

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Site** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Found** | **Range** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** | **Violation** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BARIUM (ppm) |  | 2 | 2 | 0.048 | 0.000 - 0.048 | 2/28/2023 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| FLUORIDE (ppm) |  | 4 | 4 | 0.1 | 0.0 - 0.1 | 2/21/2023 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| MERCURY (ppb) |  | 2 | 2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 3/6/2023 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland |
| NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm) |  | 10 | 10 | 8.20 | 1.20 - 9.20 |  | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| SELENIUM (ppb) |  | 50 | 50 | 1 | 0 - 1 | 3/6/2023 | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines |
| SODIUM (ppm) |  | n/a | n/a | 31.60 | 2.06 - 31.60 | 2/28/2023 | No | n/a |
| THALLIUM TOTAL (ppb) |  | 2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 - 0.2 | 2/21/2023 | No | Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories |

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Action Level** | **MCLG** | **90th Percentile Level Found** | **Range** | **# of Results** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** | **Violation** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COPPER (ppm) | AL=1.3 | 1.3 | 0.8550 | 0.0873 - 1.2100 | 0 of 20 results were above the action level. | 7/14/2023 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |

### PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since 1950. The following table lists PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Note: The recommended health-based levels in the table below were in effect in 2024. These levels were revised by WDHS in 2025. They can be found here <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>.

| **Typical Source of Contaminant** | | **Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get in groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and release from consumer products in landfills.** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contaminant (units)** | **Site** | **RPHGS or HAL (PPT)** | **Level Found** | **Range** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** |
| PFBS (ppt) |  | 450000 | 1.00 | 0.00 - 1.00 | 4/18/2023 |
| PFHXS (ppt) |  | 40 | 4.70 | 0.00 - 4.70 | 4/18/2023 |
| PFOS (ppt) |  | 20 | 0.84 | 0.00 - 0.84 | 4/18/2023 |
| PFOA (ppt) |  | 20 | 1.20 | 0.00 - 1.20 | 4/18/2023 |
| PFHXA (ppt) |  | 150000 | 3.40 | 0.00 - 3.40 | 4/18/2023 |
| PFOA AND PFOS TOTAL (ppt) |  | 20 | 2.04 | 0.00 - 2.04 | 4/18/2023 |

### Radioactive Contaminants

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Site** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Found** | **Range** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** | **Violation** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l) |  | 15 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.0 - 0.1 |  | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l) |  | 5 | 0 | 0.8 | 0.6 - 0.8 |  | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a) |  | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | -0.1 - 0.1 |  | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l) |  | 30 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 - 0.0 |  | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

| **Contaminant (units)** | **Site** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Found** | **Range** | **Sample Date (if prior to 2024)** | **Violation** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ATRAZINE (ppb) |  | 3 | 3 | 0.1 | 0.0 - 0.1 | 3/6/2023 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |

### Additional Health Information

### *The state requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representatives, are more than one year old*.

### *Possible Health Effects of detected contaminants:*

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Females who are or may become pregnant should not consume water with nitrate concentrations that exceed 10 ppm. There is some evidence of an association between exposure to high nitrate levels in drinking water during the first weeks of pregnancy and certain birth defects. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends people of all ages avoid long-term consumption of water that has nitrate levels greater than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Tomah Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Tomah Waterworks (Jeff Marten at (608) 343-5325). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Total Coliform** rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television, or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

#### Additional Information on Service Line Materials

We are required to develop an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 and to make the inventory publicly accessible. You can access the service line inventory here/by: tomahwi.gov

## Other Compliance

### Other Drinking Water Regulations Violations

| **Description of Violation** | **Date of Violation** | **Date Violation Resolved** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Failed to develop an initial inventory for service line materials that meets federal requirements. Failed to develop an inventory that meets all federal requirements and/or to make the inventory publicly accessible. | 10/17/2024 |  |

### Actions Taken

The City of Tomah Water Utility service line material inventory was completed and submitted on time, according to DNR timelines. However, the DNR has not reviewed and approved the data yet.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.

The City of Tomah Water Utility works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

Please call our office if you have questions.

***Jeff Marten***

Jeff Marten

Tomah Water Utility Supervisor