



Rural Lorain County Water Authority

PWS ID #4701803

2023 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

Our Drinking Water is Regulated

Rural Lorain County Water Authority is pleased to share this year's Annual Water Quality Report with you. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis covers January 1 through December 31, 2023. Rural Lorain County Water Authority strives to comply with the strict regulations of both the State of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this each year.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Our water source is purchased water from Avon Lake Regional Water, the Village of New London and the City of Ashland. All three sources treat your water using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants in the source water. Avon Lake relies on surface water from Lake Erie, which is located north of our service area. The Village of New London pumps water into the New London Reservoir from Buck Creek, a branch of the Vermilion River. The reservoir has a surface area of 220 acres, when full, and has a volume of 1.4 billion gallons. The City of Ashland pumps groundwater from 12 wells in the Jerome Fork basin. These ground water wells range in depth from 70 to 300 feet.

The average daily production of safe drinking water for 2023 was 5,744,491 gallons.

In 2023, we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Rural Lorain County Water Authority has a backflow prevention program to ensure water quality to all customers, and this requires an on-site survey of individual service connections. Sometime in the near future, you may be contacted to schedule an appointment to perform an on-site survey. Physical cross connections between RLCWA and a private water system are prohibited.

Source Water Assessment

The Ohio EPA conducted a source water assessment based on the Critical Assessment Zone (CAZ) for the City of Avon Lake water system, which draws surface water from Lake Erie. Although surface water is considered to be susceptible to contamination, Lake Erie was determined by the Ohio EPA to have no direct source of pollution due to its vast size and dilution capabilities.

The Ohio EPA compiled a Drinking Water Source Assessment Report for the Village of New London with the assistance of John Chapin, former Supt. Of Water, intended to identify drinking water protection areas and provide information on how to reduce the risk of contamination of the water within those areas. A copy of this report may be obtained by contacting the Village of New London (419) 929-4091.

The Ohio EPA has completed a study of the City of Ashland's drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water-rich zone) that supplies water to the City of Ashland has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

1. The thin discontinuous clay layer does not provide much protection to the aquifer.
2. Shallow depth to water.
3. Presence of significant contaminant sources in the protection area.

This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City of Ashland has developed an Ohio EPA approved protection plan. This plan will help protect the health of the community residents, protect the community's water supply investment, and preserve the ground water resource for the future. If you would like a copy of these assessments, please call our office at (440) 355-5121.

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).

Lead and 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. Rural Lorain County Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in customer plumbing components. When your water has been sitting in the home piping 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Revised Total Coliform Rule

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes

E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule, there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist.

PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing. In 2020, the Village of New London and the City of Ashland were sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

About Cryptosporidium

Avon Lake and New London water is regularly tested for organisms that could be harmful to people – including Cryptosporidium (Crypto), which is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Crypto comes from animal waste in the watershed and may be found in source water. While it is sometimes found in rivers and streams, Cryptosporidium has NEVER been found in our finished water.

Public Participation Opportunities

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend regular public meetings of RLCWA's Board of Trustees on the second Wednesday of each month at 42401 State Route 303, Lagrange, OH 44050. Find out more on the Internet at www.rlcwa.com.

Protecting Our Water from Backflow

Homes with underground irrigation systems and most non-residential buildings are required by the Division of Water to have a backflow prevention device. These backflow devices protect the public water system from any potentially contaminated water flowing into the public system from a customers' plumbing. Some examples requiring backflow systems include: swimming pools, restaurants, medical facilities, laboratories, car washes, automotive shops, industrial sites, and property with a well or pond.

A cross-connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the drinking water system piping. If the pressure of the source of contamination is greater than the water system pressure, contaminated water may backflow into the drinking water system. Pressure drops in the public water system caused by water line breaks, pump failures, and fire-fighting can also cause a backflow situation. If our rules and regulations require a backflow preventer, it must be tested annually by a tester you hire who is approved by our office. For more information about backflow prevention and cross-connection control please visit our website at https://rlcwa.com/customer_services/education/backflow_prevention/index.php.

Please report suspected cross-connections to the Rural Lorain County Water Authority Backflow Department at 440-355-5121.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws.

The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Definitions

Action Level (AL)	the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.	mrem	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).
Action Level Goal (ALG)	the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.	N/A	not applicable.
Avg.	regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.	N/D	not detected.
HARA	highest annual running average	NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)	a measure of clarity.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	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.	Parts per billion (ppb)	a unit of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
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.	Parts per million (ppm)	a unit of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
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.	Treatment technique (TT)	a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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.	90th percentile	90% of samples are equal to or less than the number on the chart.

Regulated Contaminants Monitoring for Avon Lake Municipal Utilities, City of Ashland and Village of New London											
CONTAMINANTS (UNITS)	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Avon Lake Municipal Util.		City of Ashland		Village of New London		VIOLATION	SAMPLE YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
			LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS			
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS											
TURBIDITY (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.2	0.02 - 0.20	N/A	N/A	0.36	0.05 - 0.36	NO	2023	SOIL RUNOFF
TURBIDITY (% SAMPLES MEETING STANDARD)	N/A	TT	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	NO	2023	SOIL RUNOFF
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)	N/A	TT	1.32	1.0 - 1.7	N/A	N/A	1	1.00 - 1.40**	NO	2023	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS											
BARIUM (PPM)	2	2	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0314	N/A	NO	2023	DISCHARGE OF DRILLING WASTES; DISCHARGE FROM METAL REFINERIES; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
FLUORIDE (PPM)	4	4	0.69	0.69 - 1.20	1.04	1.04 - 1.04	.96	0.82 - 1.22	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 - 0.96	0.364	.364 - .364	0.66	0.10 - 0.66	NO	2023	RUN OFF FROM FERTILIZER USE, LEACHING FROM SEPTIC TANKS, SEWAGE; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS											
Atrazine (PPB)	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.12	0.1 - 0.12	NO	2022	RUNOFF FROM HERBICIDE USED ON ROW CROPS
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS											
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	N/A	N/A	0.189***	N/A	1.04	N/A	NO	2018	EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) ³	0	15	N/D	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4	N/A	NO	2018	EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS

** Testing was completed in 2020

*** Testing was completed in 2014

Testing Results for Rural Lorain County Water Authority							
SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	INDIVIDUAL RESULTS OVER THE AL	90% OF TEST LEVELS WERE LESS THAN	VIOLATION	YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS	
LEAD AND COPPER							
LEAD (PPB)	15 PPB	NA	<2.0	NO	2023	CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS; EROSION OF NATURAL DEPOSITS	
	ZERO OUT OF 32 SAMPLES WERE FOUND TO HAVE LEAD LEVELS IN EXCESS OF THE LEAD ACTION LEVEL OF 15 PPB						
COPPER (PPM)	1.3 PPM	NA	0.0559	NO	2023	EROSIONS OF NATURAL DEPOSITS; LEACHING FROM WOOD PRESERVATIVES; CORROSIONS OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS	
	ZERO OUT OF 32 SAMPLES WERE FOUND TO HAVE COPPER LEVELS IN EXCESS OF THE COPPER ACTION LEVEL OF 1.3 PPM						
CONTAMINANTS (UNITS)	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	VIOLATION	SAMPLE YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
TOTAL CHLORINE (PPM)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.844167	0.531 - 1.0004	NO	2023	WATER ADDITIVE USED TO CONTROL MICROBES
HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) (PPB)	NA	60	38	7 - 48.6	NO	2023	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) (PPB)	NA	80	59.825	19.2 - 79.8	NO	2023	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION
TABLE OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	MINIMUM REPORTING LEVEL	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	SAMPLE YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS		
CONTAMINANTS (UNITS)							
LITHIUM (PPB)	9	13.6	11.8 - 15.4	2023	NATURALLY OCCURRING ELEMENT USED IN PHARMACEUTICALS, BATTERIES, AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS		
PFBA (PPB)	.005	.0051	.005 - .0052.	2023	BREAKDOWN PRODUCT OF PFAS USED IN STAIN-RESISTANT FABRICS, PAPER FOOD PACKAGING, AND CARPETS AMONG OTHER APPLICATIONS		
PFHxA (PPB)	.003	.003	.003	2023	BREAKDOWN PRODUCT OF PFAS USED IN STAIN-RESISTANT FABRICS, PAPER FOOD PACKAGING, AND CARPETS AMONG OTHER APPLICATIONS		

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 RLCWA participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call RLCWA at 440-355-5121.

Rural Lorain County Water Authority Drinking Water Notice

Monitoring requirements not met for Rural Lorain County Water Authority.

We are 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.

What should I do?

This notice is to inform you that Rural Lorain County Water Authority did not monitor for corrosion control indicators at the appropriate frequency as required by Ohio EPA during the July – December 2023 monitoring period. You do not need to take any action in response to this notice.

What is being done?

Rural Lorain County Water Authority will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

For more information, please contact Joseph Waldecker at 440-355-5121 or at 42401 State Route 303, Lagrange, OH 44050.

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.

PWSID: OH4701803

Questions About This Report?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Rural Lorain County Water Authority by calling (440) 355- 5121 or by writing to this address: 42401 State Route 303, Lagrange, OH 44050.

In 2023, we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.