ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

EXETER-MERRITT WATER COOPERATIVE

IL1710010

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by Exeter-Merritt Water Cooperative is Purchased Gound Water.

For more information regarding this report contact:

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Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

SOURCE OF 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. In some cases, the water may dissolve radioactive material. Water can also 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic system, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which may 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which may 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 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, 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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. Exeter-Merritt Water Cooperative is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing a load of laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce the lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested; contact our office at 217-742-8559. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Information

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
CC01- FF IL1710100	Ground Water	Active	Meter Pit – Corner of Oxville Rd. and Pearl St.
CC02- FF IL1370400	Surface Water	Active	Master Meter – Potter Rd. and Leach Farm Rd.

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please call 1-217-473-3340. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Waters, Susceptibility to Contamination Determination, and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts; you may access the Illinois EPA website at http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl.

Exeter-Merritt Water Cooperative purchases drinking water from the Village of Bluffs and the Village of South Jacksonville. To determine **Bluffs's** susceptibility to contamination, a Well Site Survey, published by the Illinois EPA in 1990, was reviewed. During the survey of Bluff's source water protection area, Illinois EPA staff recorded one potential source, route, or possible problem site within the recharge area and 1,000-foot survey radius of wells #3 and #4. No potential sources or problem sites are located within the recharge area or 1,000-foot survey radius of wells #5 and #6. In addition, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management Sections of the Illinois EPA indicated additional sites with on-going remediation that may be of concern. Based upon this information, the Illinois EPA has determined that the Bluffs community water supply's source water wells are susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including, monitoring conducted at the well, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and the available hydrogeologic data for the wells. As such, the Illinois EPA has provided 5-year recharge area calculations for the wells. The land use within the recharge area of the wells was analyzed as part of this susceptibility determination. This land use includes agricultural properties. To determine **South Jacksonville's** susceptibility to groundwater contamination, a Well Site Survey, published in 1990, and IRWA's recharge area survey were reviewed. During the initial survey of South Jacksonville's source water protection area, Illinois EPA staff recorded potential sources, routes, or possible problem sites within the 400-foot minimum setback zones and the 1,000-foot maximum setback zones of the wells. One site was located in the minimum setback zones of both wells and no sites were located within the 1,000-foot maximum setback zones of both wells. IRWA identified one additional site located within the recharge area. The Illinois EPA considers the source water of this facility to be highly susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells.

2024 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

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.

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

Copper Range: 9 UG/L to 150 UG/L
Lead Range: <1 UG/L to 2.5 UG/L

To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data visit: https://tinyurl.com/mryh86wb

Our Community Water Supply **HAS** developed a service line material inventory; for a copy of the inventory please call 217-742-8559

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/17/2023	1.3	1.3	0.15	0	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	8/17/2023	0	15	1.6	0	Ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Errosion of natural

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
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.
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.
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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):	The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Abbreviations:

n/a:	not applicable
TT:	treatment technique; a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb:	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm:	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Note: Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled during the CCR calendar year. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	1.1	1 – 1.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	14	0.0 – 20.7	n/a	60	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	116	7.91 – 111.9	n/a	80	ppb	Yes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Violations Table

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, LRAA	04/01/2024	06/30/2024	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated
MCL, LRAA	07/01/2024	09/30/2024	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2024	13/31/2024	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated

Corrective Action: The Water Cooperative issued a public notice in May of 2025 and in the future will work diligently to ensure that TTHM levels fall below the applicable MCL.

THE FOLLOWING WATER MONITORING DATA IS PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS, AS THE PARENT WATER SUPPLY FOR THE EXETER-MERRITT WATER COOP.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	0.8	0.56 - 1.13	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	13	3.84 - 19.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	44	17.25 - 77.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2024	0.026	0.026 - 0.026	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2024	0.513	0.513 - 0.513	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	2024	0.023	0.023 - 0.023		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	2024	3.7	3.7 - 3.7	150	150	ppb	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	1	1.2 - 1.2	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2024	15	15 - 15			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occuring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	2024	0.042	0.042 - 0.042	5	5	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; discharge from metal

Violations Table

Lead and Copper Rule

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	05/01/2023	03/05/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	08/01/2023	03/05/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	04/01/2024	06/30/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	07/01/2024	09/30/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	10/01/2024	12/31/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

THE FOLLOWING WATER MONITORING DATA IS PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFS, ILLINOIS, AS THE PARENT WATER SUPPLY FOR THE EXETER-MERRITT WATER COOP.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	1.1	0.87 - 1.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	18	18 - 18	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	48	47.6 - 47.6	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	01/18/2023	0.11	0.11 - 0.11	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	01/18/2023	5.3	5.3 - 5.3	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	01/18/2023	22	22 - 22			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occuring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.