

# *Letcher County Water & Sewer District Water Quality Report 2021*

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Meeting Location and Time: Letcher County Water District Meeting Room, Third Thursday monthly at 4:30 PM

We purchase water from three systems that treat surface water. Whitesburg (North Fork of Kentucky River) serves Little Cowan area and from the mouth of Sand Lick to Hurricane Branch. Jenkins (Jenkins Lake) serves the Highway 119 North corridor. Knott County Water District (Carr Fork Lake) serves the remainder of our customers. Source Water Assessments have been completed and the susceptibility of contamination for Whitesburg is high based upon recent fuel leaks and the susceptibility rating for Carr Fork and Jenkins Lake is moderate. Activities which pose a threat to water quality include transportation corridors, mining activities, oil and gas wells, untreated sewage; and solid waste. These activities are of interest to the entire community because they could potentially affect your health and the cost of treating your water. The complete Source Water Assessment Plans are available for review at the respective water systems and Kentucky River Area Development District office in Hazard, KY.

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 may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 may 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, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides, (stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential uses). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or 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 to provide the same protection for public health.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Information About Lead:**

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. Your local public 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 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **Some or all of these definitions may be found in this report:**

**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 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 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.

**Below Detection Levels (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** - does not apply.

**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, (µg/L). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per trillion (ppt)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Parts per quadrillion (ppq)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

**Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

To request a paper copy call (606) 633-8550.

**To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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.**

The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with administrative regulations in 401 KAR Chapter 8. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data in this table, though representative, may be more than one year old. **Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office during business hours.**

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results Jenkins (J) Knott Co (K) Whitesburg (W)**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Source	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Beta photon emitters (pCi/L)	50	0	J=	1.21	1.21 to 1.21	2017	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters [4000] (pCi/L)	15	0	J=	1.28	1.28 to 1.28	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	J=	1.436	1.436 to 1.436	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
			W=	3.29	3.29 to 3.29	2020	No	
Uranium (µg/L)	30	0	J=	0.193	0.193 to 0.193	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	W=	0.036	0.036 to 0.036	2021	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	J=	0.71	0.71 to 0.71	2021	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
			K=	0.67	0.67 to 0.67	2021	No	
			W=	0.55	0.55 to 0.55	2021	No	
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	J=	0.07	0.07 to 0.07	2021	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
			K=	0.18	0.18 to 0.18	2021	No	
			W=	0.57	0.57 to 0.57	2021	No	
Selenium [1045] (ppb)	50	50	J=	0.8	0.8 to 0.8	2021	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries or mines; erosion of natural deposits
			W=	1.5	1.5 to 1.5	2021	No	

**Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors**

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (report level=lowest avg. range of monthly ratios)	TT*	N/A	J=	1.18	1 to 2.01	2021	No	Naturally present in environment.
			K=	1.80	1.25 to 3.16	2021	No	
			W=	1.34	0.80 to 2.56	2021	No	

\*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.

**Other Constituents**

Turbidity (NTU) TT	Allowable	Source	Highest Single	Lowest	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
* Representative samples	Levels		Measurement	Monthly %		
Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water and not a contaminant.	No more than 1 NTU* Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% monthly samples	J=	0.07	100	No	Soil runoff
		K=	0.08	100	No	
		W=	0.17	100	No	

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results Letcher County Water & Sewer District**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.34 (highest average)	0.6 to 1.82	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	42 (high site average)	29 to 58 (range of individual sites)	2021	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	37 (high site average)	30 to 43 (range of individual sites)	2021	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Household Plumbing Contaminants**

Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL= 1.3	1.3	0.0019 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.001 to 0.0024	Jul-20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
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