

Jackson Municipal Water & Sewer 2023 Water Quality Report

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Jackson Municipal Water system withdraws surface water from the North Fork of the Kentucky River where it is processed at our water treatment plant. During the treatment process particulate matter suspended in the raw water is settled and oxidized to remove contaminants after which the water is filtered and disinfected with chlorine to further protect public health. As part of a multi barrier approach to safeguard the public, land uses within the watershed have been assessed to better understand their potential impact to water quality and to assign a susceptibility rating. A susceptibility analysis uses a weighted rating system which evaluates the toxicity, distance, and likelihood of release of contaminants to adversely affect water quality. The rating for the City is moderate however, there are a few areas of concern. Highways and bridges near streams are of high concern due to potential problems should a hazardous spill occur there. Run-off and erosion from logging and mining activities are other potential threats. Other potential contaminants and activities of concern are illegal dumping, fuel storage tanks and straight pipes. Activities and land use within the watershed can pose potential risks to your drinking water. Under certain circumstances, contaminants could be released that would pose challenges to water treatment or contaminate your drinking water. These activities, and how they are conducted, are of interest to the entire community because they potentially affect your health and the cost of treating your water. The complete source water assessment is presented in the Breathitt County Water Supply plan. The plan is available for review at the Kentucky River Area Development District in Hazard.

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).

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 water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, 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, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact your local water system. 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>.

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, ($\mu\text{g/L}$). 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.

Variances & 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 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

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.031	0.031 to 0.031	Apr-23	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	0.68	0.68 to 0.68	Apr-23	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	0.203	0.203 to 0.203	Apr-23	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (measured as ppm, but reported as a ratio)	TT*	N/A	1.22 (lowest average)	0.70 to 4.00 (monthly ratios)	2023	No	Naturally present in environment.
*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.65 (highest average)	0.53 to 2.49	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	54 (high site average)	17 to 62 (range of individual sites)	2023	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	88 (high site average)	29 to 140 (range of individual sites)	2023	YES	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM(ppb) Individual Site	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Violation		
062	53	45	51	52	No		
065	72	79	85	88	Yes		

Household Plumbing Contaminants

Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.05 (90 th percentile)	0 to 0.35	Sep-20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead [1030] (ppb) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	3 (90 th percentile)	0 to 8	Sep-20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Other Constituents

Turbidity (NTU) TT * Representative samples	Allowable Levels	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
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% of monthly samples	0.1	100	No	Soil runoff

Violation: Stage 2 Disinfection By-products Rule (2024-9926554 & 2024-9926555)

Jackson Municipal Water Works received two violations for exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.080 mg/l for Trihalomethane (THM). This is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at one of our system's locations from 7/1/2023 - 9/30/2023 and 10/1/2023 - 12/31/2023 was 0.085 mg/L and 0.088 mg/L, respectively. We are optimizing our treatment process and increasing distribution system flushing to reduce THM concentration. We anticipate returning to compliance by December 31, 2024. The public notice for these violations was distributed to all customers by mail.

Health Effects:

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]. 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our water system violated one or more drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

"We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2/1/2023-2/28/2023 we did not monitor or test for Turbidity, Entry Point Chlorine and Distribution Chlorine and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time."

Daily testing is conducted at the water treatment plant for turbidity and chlorine and within the distribution system for chlorine. The results of these analysis are recorded in the Monthly Operating Report (MOR). The MOR is an compliance monitoring record that is to be submitted to the KY Division of Water by the tenth day of the month following the reporting period. We submitted the February 2023 MOR through the e-Forms reporting system however the uploaded MOR spreadsheet was missing the monitoring data. The reporting compliance date (3/10/23) had passed before the error was discovered which resulted in the city receiving three violations (2023-992-6551, 2023-9926552 & 2023-9926553).

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.

What is being done?

We have reviewed the electronic signature and e-Forms online file upload process to ensure that this error does not recur. We have since submitted the February 2023 MOR and have been returned to compliance.

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.