

Southern Water and Sewer District

Water Quality Report 2024

For previous reports include year.
Example: tapwaterinfo.com/2023/southern

Water System ID: KY0360026
Manager: Randy Conley

CCR Contact: Westley Little
606-874-2007

Mailing Address:
245 KY RT 680
McDowell, KY 41647

Meeting location and time:
Water District Office
4th Monday, monthly at 5:30PM

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). 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 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).

Source Information:

The source of water for Southern Water and Sewer District, the City of Pikeville and Prestonsburg City Utilities is surface water withdrawn from Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. The source of water for Knott County Water and Sewer is surface water from Carr Fork Lake. We purchase a portion of our water from Pikeville, Prestonsburg and Knott County in addition to the water processed at our Water Treatment Plant in Allen. An analysis of the susceptibility of the raw water sources to contamination has been completed. The overall susceptibility is rated high for the sources of Southern, Pikeville and Prestonsburg due to many of the potential contaminant sources such as: mining, construction, roads/rail, sewage treatment plants, landfill and an active superfund site. Susceptibility to contamination of the source water for Knott County is considered moderate due to roads and bridges, mining activity, oil and gas wells, untreated sewage and hazardous waste sites. Activities and land uses 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 even get into your drinking water. These activities, and how they are conducted, are of interest to our customers because they potentially affect your health and the cost of your drinking water. The complete source water assessment for Southern, Pikeville and Prestonsburg water utilities can be reviewed at the Big Sandy Area Development District office located in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. The complete source water assessment for Knott County can be viewed at the Kentucky River Area Development District office in Hazard, Kentucky.

Service Area Information:

Water produced by the treatment plant at Southern Water is distributed throughout our system. We purchase water from Pikeville to supplement our supply at Toler Creek and Tackett Fork. We also purchase water from Knott County to supplement our supply in Lick Skillet down to Wayland. During high usage periods, we purchase water from Prestonsburg to supplement our supply in David and along Route 850. If you have any questions about which water producers may be supplying your area, please contact our office.

Information About Lead:

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>.

We are required to annually provide information about the health risks from lead in drinking water to schools and child care facilities. All elementary schools, secondary schools, and child care facilities are eligible to be sampled for lead by our water system. Contact our office for scheduling or to learn results of previous sampling.

Service Line Inventory Information:

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. We have completed a service line inventory (SLI) and it is available for review at our office.

Lead Sample Results Availability Information:

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead action level at 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). For a water system to be in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled can be reviewed at our office.

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.

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.

We are only required to test for some contaminants periodically, so the results listed in this report may not be from the previous year. Only detected contaminants are included in this report. For a list of all contaminants we test for please contact us. Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office.

Your drinking water has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. There are no MCLs and therefore no violations if found. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA determine where the contaminants occur and whether they should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our office during normal business hours. Detections from this sampling are listed in the table below.

Violations 2024-9951043 and 2024-9951044

Testing results showed that our system failed to maintain a turbidity of 0.3NTU or less for at least 95% of the samples taken during the months of January and February of 2024. In January 2024, 22.6% of samples were above 0.3NTU and in February 2024 19% of samples were above 0.3NTU.

Public Notifications describing the violations were distributed to our customers at the time the violations occurred. We have since returned to compliance.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Violations 2024-9951045 and 2024-9951046

Testing results showed that our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for trihalomethanes. The standard for trihalomethanes is 0.080 mg/L. It is determined by averaging all samples at each sampling location for the last 12 months.

Trihalomethanes averaged at one of our system's locations for:

1/1/2024 through 3/31/2024 was 0.087 mg/L

4/1/2024 through 6/30/2024 was 0.082 mg/L

A Public Notification describing the violation was distributed to our customers at the time the violations occurred. We have since returned to compliance.

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.

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 **P=Pikeville** **S=Southern** **K=Knott County** **PR=Prestonsburg**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Source	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Inorganic Contaminants

Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	S= PR= P=	0.066 0.058 0.073	0.066 to 0.066 0.058 to 0.058 0.073 to 0.073	2024 2024 2024	No No No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	S= PR= P= K=	0.73 0.66 0.7 0.67	0.73 to 0.73 0.66 to 0.66 0.7 to 0.7 0.67 to 0.67	2024 2024 2024 2024	No No No No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	S= PR=	0.15 0.361	0.15 to 0.15 0.361 to 0.361	2024 2024	No No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (report level=lowest avg. range of monthly ratios)	TT*	N/A	S= PR= P= K=	1.56 1.33 0.98 1.55	1 to 2.58 0.89 to 2.13 -0.22 to 1.82 1 to 3.49	2024 2024 2024 2024	No No No** No	Naturally present in environment.
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*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.

** Pikeville uses an approved alternative compliance method and is in compliance, despite the average being below 1.00

Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	S=	1.21 (highest average)	0.09 to 2.17	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	S=	16 (average)	7 to 19 (range of individual sites)	2024	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	S=	87 (average)	19 to 105 (range of individual sites)	2024	YES	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Household Plumbing Contaminants

Copper [1022] (ppm) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	S=	0.021 (90 th percentile)	0 to 0.036	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
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Other Constituents

Turbidity (NTU) TT * Representative samples	Allowable Levels	Source	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% monthly samples	S= PR= P= K=	0.94 0.179 0.21 0.089	77 100 100 100	YES No No No	Soil runoff

Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR 5)

	average	range (ppb)	date	
Lithium	S= PR=	21 19.025	21 to 21 12.4 to 33.6	Nov-24 Oct-23

