City of Elkhart

Mayor Rod Roberson
1201 South Nappanee Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Water Quality Report 2024

The City of Elkhart has a *Statewide* waiver for PCBs and dioxin. This waiver was granted because Elkhart's groundwater system is not under the direct influence of surface water. The City also has a *Use* waiver for asbestos because asbestos is not used in the distribution system piping. These waivers are in place from January 1, 2020 — December 21, 2028.

The 2024 City of Elkhart, Water Quality Report meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 141 as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

For additional information please contact:

Elkhart Public and Utilities	
Administration, Engineering, Laboratory	(574) 293-2572
Billing & Service Office	(574) 264-4273
Elkhart County Department of Health: Environmental Services	(574) 971-4600
Indiana Department of Environmental Management-Water Quality	(800) 451-6027
United States Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Hotline	(800) 426-4791

For other formats, contact the City of Elkhart ADA Coordinator:
Voice (574) 293-2572
TTY Indiana Relay 711 or (800) 743-3333
Email mark.lucas@coei.org

City of Elkhart
Water Quality Report 2024

The Consumer Confidence Report

This report on the City of Elkhart's water supply gives you, our customer, information about the water you drink. There were no violations or exceedances in 2024. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that publicly owned drinking water systems send this report every year to consumers showing that the water you drink meets regulatory standards and expectations for quality. This report outlines the City's commitment to preserving this quality. Included in the report is information on levels of regulated substances detected in the City's water in 2024.

The Board of Public Works, which oversees the Water Utility, holds public meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. Please call Bryan Cress at 574-293-2572 with any questions about this report.

Elkhart's Water Source

All of the City's water is supplied from groundwater sources. Groundwater is held within pore spaces in the soil in what is known as an aquifer. This aquifer reaches several hundred feet below ground. The water is pumped to the surface, treated, and sent to City water customers from three wellfields around Elkhart; Northwest Wellfield, North Main Wellfield, and South Wellfield. The aquifer that supplies Elkhart with clean, safe water is a valuable natural resource.

Protecting Your Water Resources

The City believes protection of groundwater is key to the community's future. Water Utility officials have created a master plan for Elkhart's water supply to ensure that water continues to meet all state and federal safe drinking water standards and keeps water costs low.

The City also maintains a Wellhead Protection Plan that is available for review at Elkhart Public Works and Utilities. The plan establishes protection areas surrounding each of our wellfields. Spills in these protected areas could contaminate the drinking water making it unsafe. The contaminated water could be difficult or impossible to treat. Limit the amount of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other household products used. Recycle used motor oil, antifreeze, and other household hazardous products. Report any spills you witness or find to 911. A source water assessment conducted by the State of Indiana determined that our water has a high susceptibility to contamination. Preventing water contamination before it occurs is the best way to continue to have healthy and safe drinking water.

Water Contaminants

Contaminants that may be present in source water prior to treatment include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

Health Concerns

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 .

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúzcalo o hable con algien que lo entienda bien. Para discutir esta información en español, por favor llame al (574) 293-2572 durante las horas regulares de oficina.

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.

Explanation of Expected Contaminants

As water travels through the ground to recharge the water table, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. This water can also pick up substances resulting from the presences of human or animal activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Regulated contaminants either do not exist at harmful levels in Elkhart's supply or are removed to attain safe levels before distribution.

Lead in Your Water

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. Elkhart 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 the City by calling 574-293-2572 or emailing bryan.cress@coei.org. 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.

Complete lead tap sampling data is available for review by contacting 574-293-2572. A service line inventory has been prepared and is available at elkhartindiana.org/lead or by calling 574-293-2572. The service line material was determined using the best information currently available. The information is updated whenever better information becomes available or resources allow the Utility to complete a visual verification. Water systems must submit a lead service line replacement plan to the state by November 1, 2027. This report will be made available to customers when it is complete. Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings, and fixtures may cause lead and copper to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, the City conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites every three years. The City helps limit corrosion of pipes by adding a corrosion inhibitor to the water. To ensure the treatment is operating effectively, the City monitors water quality parameters daily. Additionally, the City is required to sample for lead in schools and licensed child care facilities as requested by the facility and has attempted to make contact with all schools and registered childcare facilities to complete sampling. The public may contact their school or child care facility for further information about potential sampling results.

UCMR

Our system collected samples under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples and detected the compounds shown in this table. These compounds are not regulated at this time or have regulated levels that, if exceeded, would not result in a violation at this time. The full UCMR sampling results and additional PFAS sampling results are available at elkhartindiana.org/pfas or by contacting our office at 574-293-2572.

Detected Levels of Contaminants
City of Elkhart Public Water System 2024
PWSID #5220008

Disinfection and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	LRAA	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	N/A	0.15 - 2.03	2.03	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	42	17.5 - 52.1	52.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	16	8.8 - 21.5	21.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

2022 Lead and Copper[1]

Contaminant	90th Percentile Action Level (AL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Number of Samples Over the AL (Out of 44)	Range of Results	Our 90th Percentile	Violations	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0.0038 - 1	0.502	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2	0.51 - 54	4.5	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Other Regulated Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium (ppm)[1]	2	2	0.031 - 0.14	0.14	No	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)[1]	100	100	2.1 - 2.6	2.6	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)[1]	4	4	0.89 - 0.94	0.94	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.64 - 1.60	1.60	No	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

2020 Radioactive Contaminants[2]

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	1.1 - 2.1	2.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50[3]	0	0 - 3.0	3.0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	5	0	1 - 2.2	2.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Non-Regulated Substances

Contaminant	Health Based Level	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Nickel (ppm)[1]	0.1[4]	0.0012 - 0.0018	0.0018	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

Contaminant	Collection Date	Health Based Level[5]	Range of Results	Average Result	Typical Sources
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) (ppt)	7/18/2024	6000	MRL - 7.5	2.5	Consumer products
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)(ppt)	7/18/2024	2000	MRL - 9.8	5.5	Consumer products
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)(ppt)	7/18/2024	3000	MRL - 5.5	1.8	Consumer products
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS)(ppt)	7/18/2024	10	MRL - 8.8	4.5	Consumer products
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)(ppt)	7/18/2024	4.0	MRL - 5.2	1.7	Consumer products
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)(ppt)	7/18/2024	N/A	MRL - 8.3	2.8	Consumer products
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)(ppt)	1/2/2025	2000	MRL - 9.1	4.1	Consumer products
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)(ppt)	1/2/2025	3000	MRL - 5.5	1.8	Consumer products
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS)(ppt)	1/2/2025	10	MRL - 5.4	3.5	Consumer products
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)(ppt)	1/2/2025	N/A	MRL - 7.8	2.6	Consumer products

[1] Samples are taken every three years in compliance with regulations. The results from the most recent monitoring are provided.
[2] Samples are taken every six years in compliance with regulations. The results from the most recent monitoring are provided.
[3] EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for gross beta particles.
[4] Life-time health advisory limit
[5] Health based level or newly established MCL (https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/data-summary-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule)

Definitions

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

Average: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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 contamination.

MRL (Minimum Reporting Level): The lowest measurable concentration of a contaminant that, with 95% confidence, is achievable by at least 75% of laboratories nationwide using a specified analytical method

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

ppb (Parts Per Billion): Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm (Parts Per Million): Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppt (Part Per Trillion: Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)