

# NORRIS WATER COMMISSION

## Water Quality Report for 2023

### Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, NORRIS WATER COMMISSION is proud to report to the public that our drinking water is safe and meets all of EPA's, State and Federal standards.

### What is the source of my water?

Norris Water Commission's Water Treatment Plant source is Clear Creek Spring. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water to this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Norris Water Commission Water Treatment Plants sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

**Wellhead protection plan** is available for your review by contacting Tony Wilkerson at the Norris City Office Office between 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. weekdays, at 865-494-7645.

### Why are there contaminants in my water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Tony Wilkerson, Waterworks Superintendent at 865-494-7645.**

### How can I get involved?

Norris Water Commission, Board of Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the Norris Community Building. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

### Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State, Division of Water Resources and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety and water quality. Norris Water Commission has met all of these requirements. Norris Water Commission and its employees respect the regulatory requirements and work extremely hard to observe all rules and regulations governing water treatment and distribution operation on a daily basis. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

### Other Information

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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 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 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which 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.

### Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Lead in Drinking Water

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. Norris Water Commission 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to Norris City Office at 865-494-7645 or Norris Police Department 865-494-0880.

### Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water

#### Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. visit: <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

# Water Quality Data

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.
- **MRDL**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the 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 contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Below Detection Level (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- **TTHM**: Norris Water Commission started year 2013 Stage 2 Disinfection by Product Rule (4) samples in a year completed quarterly monitoring in 2015 and qualified for reduced monitoring –(1) sample per treatment plant per year.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained as a relation to time and money as 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** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Most of the data**: presented in this table is from January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023. We monitor for other contaminants less than once per year, the date of the last is shown in the table, and upon request others can be viewed-call 865-494-7645.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Lead**.Copper: No sample exceeded the action level;0 out of 10 sites sampled had a level exceeding the lead action level or copper action level.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	NO	0			2023	0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	No	.30	.01-.19	2023	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper	No	90 <sup>th</sup> %.0169 ppm		2021	ppm	1.3	AL-1.3 ppm	Corrosion oh household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	NO	90 <sup>th</sup> %.2.74 ppb		2021	ppb	0-ND	AL-15 ppb	
Sodium	NO	0.673 ppm	0.673 ppm	2022	ppm	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Trihalomethanes	NO	14.3 ppb	.0-14.3 ppb	2023	ppb	0	80 ppb	Bi-product of drinking water
Chlorine	NO	AVG	1.26-2.21 ppm	2023	ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Drinking Water disinfection
Chloride	NO	3.22 ppm	n/a	2022	ppm	0	250	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Haloacetic Acid (HAA)	NO	19.5 ppb	1.66-19.5 ppb	2023	ppb	n/a	60 ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate	NO	.0587 mg/l	n/a	2023	Mg/l	10	N/A	Run off from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	NO	Qtr. Avg .505	.0-.70	2023	Mg/l	2.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth