

**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.

**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.



## Water Quality Report 2025

**To request a paper copy call 859-986-4391.**

Water System ID: KY0760030

Manager: Kevin Howard

859-986-4391

CCR Contact: Josh Gabbard

859-986-4391

Mailing address:

200 Harrison Rd.

Berea, KY 40403

Meeting location and time:

No regular board meetings established. Call 859-986-4391 for information.

This report is designed to inform the public about the quality of water and services provided on a daily basis. Our commitment is to provide a safe, clean, and reliable supply of drinking water. We want to assure that we will continue to monitor, improve, and protect the water system and deliver a high quality product.

Berea Municipal Utilities treats surface water from four reservoirs, Upper Silver Creek, Lower Silver Creek, Cowbell and Owsley Fork Lakes. The final source water assessment for our system has been completed and is contained in the Madison County Source Water Assessment & Protection Plan. An analysis of the susceptibility of the Berea water supply to contamination indicates that susceptibility is generally moderate. However, there are some areas of high concern within the protection zones of the Upper and Lower Silver Creek reservoirs, as well as with the protection zone of Cowbell Lake. Forested areas within these protection zones hold the potential to generate runoff that could carry natural contaminants from the forest floor. Within the protection zone for Owsley Fork reservoir, forest areas are also present and are

noted as a significant contamination threat to this source. Segments of four major roads (KY 2004, KY 3447, US 421, and KY 21) also occur within this protection zone--each perceived as medium-level threats to the reservoir supply. A copy of the plan is available for review at the Berea Municipal Utilities office, during normal business hours.

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:

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>.

### 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 online at <https://www.bereauutilities.com/water/water-quality/> or by hard copy upon request at Berea Municipal Utilities.

### 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 .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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled can be reviewed at the Water Plant and saved electronically at Berea Municipal Utilities.

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.

Regulated Contaminant Test Results		Berea Municipal Utilities					
Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	0.42	0.42 to 0.42	May-20	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic [1005] (ppb)	10	N/A	2.2	2.2 to 2.2	Mar-25	No	Natural erosion; runoff from orchards or glass and electronics production wastes
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.148	0.148 to 0.148	Mar-25	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium [1020] (ppb)	100	100	2.7	2.7 to 2.7	Mar-25	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	0.86	0.86 to 0.86	Mar-25	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nickel (ppb) (US EPA remanded MCL in February 1995)	N/A	N/A	170	170 to 170	Mar-25	No	N/A
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	0.236	0.236 to 0.236	Apr-25	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	1.5 (lowest average)	1.07 to 2.05 (monthly ratios)	2025	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	0.91 (highest average)	0.5 to 1.32	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	39 (high site average)	25 to 52 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	46 (high site average)	24 to 61 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Household Plumbing Contaminants							
Copper (ppm) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.051 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.003 to 0.612	Aug-24	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	0 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0 to 11	Aug-24	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		0.06	100	No	Soil runoff

	Average	Range of Detection	
	0.8	0.72	to 0.87
Fluoride (added for dental health)	0.8	0.72	to 0.87
Sodium (EPA guidance level = 20 mg/L)	1.5	1.49	to 1.49

Secondary contaminants do not have a direct impact on the health of consumers. They are being included to provide additional information about the quality of the water.

Secondary Contaminant	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample
Maximum Allowable Level			
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 mg/l	0.1	0.1 to 0.1
Chloride	250 mg/l	6.7	6.7 to 6.7
Corrosivity	Noncorrosive	-1.14	-1.14 to -1.14
Fluoride	2.0 mg/l	0.85	0.85 to 0.85
Odor	3 threshold odor number	2	2 to 2
pH	6.5 to 8.5	7.03	7.03 to 7.03
Sulfate	250 mg/l	5.1	5.1 to 5.1
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/l	175	175 to 175

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and correct any problems that we found during the assessment.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment. One Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed those actions.

