

Water Quality Report 2025

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 System ID: KY0920332



OHIO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Clean, safe drinking water is essential to public health, quality of life, and economic stability in Ohio County. In 2025, the Ohio County Water District again met and exceeded all state and federal drinking water regulations, reflecting our continued commitment to protecting public health and providing reliable service.

OCWD serves more than 23,000 residents through over 7,500 connections and operates one of the largest water systems in Kentucky, ranking sixth statewide in both miles of distribution main maintained and gallons of water produced. Our membrane filtration water treatment plant continued to perform at an exceptional level, earning a 100% score under Kentucky's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). Only 20 of more than 200 treatment plants statewide achieved this distinction.

The District also made strong financial and operational progress. OCWD received a clean audit opinion for fiscal year 2024, with no material weaknesses or disagreements noted, and our net position has increased for four consecutive years. Since 2021, we have secured more than \$7.1 million in grants, principal forgiveness, and reimbursements, significantly

reducing long-term ratepayer impact while advancing critical infrastructure improvements.

In 2025, engineering advanced on the North IPE Transmission Main Project, one of the most important long-term reliability projects in our system, alongside continued line replacements, pump station upgrades, and service extensions across the county. Our work was recognized with a Kentucky House of Representatives Citation of Achievement and the KRWA Wooden Bucket Award, naming OCWD the top water or sewer utility among more than 700 systems statewide.

I am proud of the work our employees do each day and grateful for the leadership of our Board of Commissioners. I am truly blessed to serve this community and to work alongside a dedicated team committed to continuous improvement and responsible stewardship of the system we all depend on.



Sincerely,
Eric Hickman, P.E.
General Manager

TEST RESULTS: 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 at 270-298-7704.

REGULATED CONTAMINANT TEST RESULTS

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	0.3	0.3 to 0.3	May-20	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.026	0.026 to 0.026	Aug-25	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	0.84	0.84 to 0.84	Aug-25	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	0.89	0.89 to 0.89	Feb-25	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine [2050] (ppb)	3	3	0.25	BDL to 0.5	Ju-25	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

DISINFECTANTS/DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSORS

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (measured as ppm, but reported as a ratio)	TT*	N/A	1.67 (lowest average)	1.12 to 2.05 (monthly ratios)	2025	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.

Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.68 (highest average)	0.68 to 2.5	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	53 (high site average)	21 to 59 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	60 (high site average)	27 to 76 (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	0.128 (90th percentile)	0.012 to 0.456	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	0 (90th percentile)	0 to 8	Jun-23	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	0.07	100	No	Soil runoff

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS

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.

Contaminant	Maximum Allowable Level	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample
Chloride	250 mg/L	9.4	9.4 to 9.4	May-25
Copper	1.0 mg/L	0.043	0.043 to 0.043	May-25
Corrosivity	Noncorrosive	-1.14	-1.14 to -1.14	May-25
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L	0.64	0.64 to 0.64	May-25
Odor	3	1	1 to 1	May-25
pH	6.5 to 8.5	7.1	7.1 to 7.1	May-25
Sulfate	250 mg/L	7.1	7.1 to 7.1	May-25
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L	108	108 to 108	May-25

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.

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).

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.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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 or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct two Level 1 assessments. Two Level 1 assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed two of these actions.

During the past year one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one action.

Contaminant **Average Range of Detection**

Fluoride (added for dental health)	0.9	0.71 to 1.07
Sodium (EPA guidance level = 20 mg/L)	5.8	5.77 to 5.77

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 \$10,000,000,000,000.

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.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

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



Source Information:

The Ohio County Water District treats surface water from Green River. An analysis of the susceptibility of the water supply to contamination indicates that this susceptibility is generally moderate. However, there are a few areas of high concern. Potential contaminant sources of concern include major roads and statewide coverage of row crops. These are rated as high because of the contaminant type, their proximity, and the high chance of release. The potential contaminant sources of medium susceptibility include areas of forest and woodlands, oil and gas wells, and coverage of pasture and hay. The complete Source Water Assessment is available for review during normal business hours at the Ohio County Water District.

AWOP Certification

Our membrane filtration water treatment plant continues to perform at a high level, and in 2025, it achieved a 100% Gold Standard score under Kentucky's Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). Only 20 of more than 200 water treatment plants statewide earned this distinction, placing OCWD in the top tier of drinking water utilities in Kentucky.



House of Representative Citation of Achievement

Kentucky House of Representatives Citation of Achievement and additional recognition from state agencies, elected officials, and industry partners for operational and managerial excellence.

Wooden Bucket Award

2025 Wooden Bucket Award – Recognized by the Kentucky Rural Water Association as the #1 water or sewer utility in Kentucky, selected from 713 utilities statewide, reflecting excellence in operations, financial management, asset management, workforce development, and public outreach.



Community Engagement & Public Outreach:

2025 Christmas Parade

Continued strong community involvement through plant tours, school engagement, customer assistance, and participation in local events, including Christmas parades featuring a Wooden Bucket-themed float.



Fun Fact Friday

Launched and expanded the “Fun Fact Friday” social media series to improve customer education, with strong growth in views, reach, interactions, and followers during 2025.



Congratulations to the 2025 OCWD Scholarship Recipients!

The Scholarship Program continued for its third year, awarding scholarships to three recipients in 2025 and reinforcing OCWD’s commitment to education and community investment.



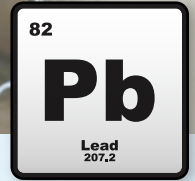
Briar Elliott



Jaley Francis



Addyson Graves



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 at our office or <https://www.ocwdky.org/leadserviceinventory>

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.

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Manager: Eric Hickman, P.E.

CCR Contact: Jason Chinn

Phone: 270-274-3676

P.O. Box 207, Hartford, KY 42347

GET INVOLVED:

Meeting location and time:

124 E Washington St. Hartford, KY

www.ocwdky.org/boardmeetings

4th Monday each month at 5:00 PM (except Holidays)