

Village of Somerset Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Village of Somerset has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. This report is required as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Reauthorization of 1996 and is required to be delivered to the consumers by July 1, 2024. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

What's the source of your drinking water?

The Village of Somerset receives its drinking water from Somerset Lake located immediately north of the water treatment plant located on Township Rd. 45. Water also comes from Lake St. Joseph located west of Township Rd. 122 and south of County Rd. 60. For the purpose of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals, pathogens, which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The Village of Somerset produced 40.49 million gallons of Water from Somerset Reservoir in 2023. The Village pumped 4.90 million gallons from Lake St. Joseph.

The Village of Somerset's drinking water source protection area contains a moderate number of potential contaminant sources, which include agricultural run-off, private septic systems, oil and gas wells, and road crossings.

The Village of Somerset public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect Somerset Lake and Lake St. Joseph. More detailed information is provided in the Village of Somerset's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling Gary Hynus at 1-740-743-1986.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land 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 include:

- A) Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;
- B) Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- C) Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

- D) 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems;
- E) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk to infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Between the dates of January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023 the Village of Somerset conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganic chemicals, radiological, volatile organic chemicals, lead, copper, and nitrate. Most of these compounds were not detected in the water.

The Ohio EPA requires water systems to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Violation:

The Village of Somerset public water system did not have any violations in 2023.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Village of Somerset's drinking water supply.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological contaminants							
Turbidity NTU	NA	TT	0.15	0.04-0.15	No	2023	Soil runoff
*Turbidity % samples meeting standards	NA	TT	100%	All 100%	No	2023	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.74	1.55-2.58	No	2023	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants - Non detected							
• Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride ppm	4	4	0.99	0.94-1.03	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive to promote strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper ppm	1.300	AL=1.300	0.036	<0.01-.0310	NO	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Barium ppm	2ppm	2ppm	0.010 ppm	NA	No	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of ten samples collected were over the action level for copper. Lead was not found in any of the 10 samples collected.							
Nitrate ppm	10	10	1.40mg/L	0.10-1.40	No	2023	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	5.7	4.0-5.7	No	2023	By-product of chlorination of drinking water
• Residual Disinfectants							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.4	0.9-1.4	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes

*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1NTU at any time. As reported above the Village of Somerset's highest recorded turbidity result for 2023 was 0.15NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

- TOC Language

“The value reported under, “Level Found,” for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.”

Lead Educational Information “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. The Village of Somerset 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 TWO 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

LTO Language

“In 2023 we had a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system”

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

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

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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial.

NA: Not Applicable or Does not apply

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little of 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The, “<,” symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in the sample was not detected.

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the Somerset Board of Public Affairs. Regular meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Clerk’s Office. If you should have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Gary Hynus at 740-743-1986.