2025 Water Quality Report

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be present in drinking water. As shown in the chart below, only 8 of these contaminants were detected.

What is the source of my water?

Your water is true groundwater and comes from a limestone aquifer in the Smith Rd area and Carson Springs. 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) and Savannah Valley Utility District (SVUD) have prepared a *Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)* Report including a Wellhead Protection Plan for 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. SVUD sources have been 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 the EPA can be viewed online following the link to TDEC's website at: https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 at (800) 426-4791.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Mike Scott at (423) 344-8440 Ext. 113

How can I get involved?

Our Board of Commissioners meet on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm at our office located at 10700 Hwy 58. To be placed on the agenda please call ahead. The Commissioners of Savannah Valley Utility District serve four-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Hamilton Co. Mayor from a list provided by the remaining Commissioners. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the TN Board of Utility Regulations of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

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

To ensure the quality and safety of the water supplied to our customers, the State of Tennessee and EPA require us to routinely test the water supplied for both "regulated" and "un-regulated" containments. We are pleased to inform you we are in compliance with all State and Federal water quality requirements. Copies of those test analysis are available upon request.

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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 voltaic 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 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 amounts 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. Our water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern.

Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 at 800-426-4791.

WHAT ABOUT Lead in Drinking Water?

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. SVUD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.

Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formulas, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact James Parks 423.344.8440 (Ext. 103) at SVUD.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

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.

Lead Service Line Inventory

To meet TDEC and EPA inventory requirements associated with revisions to the 1991 Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), SVUD is working on a lead service line inventory (LSLI). This inventory determines the service line material on both the Utility and Customer side of a water service connection. SVUD does NOT contain any lead service lines initiating from the utility side. We have approximately 2100 customers left to identify if their side of the service connection contains any lead service lines. If you have not participated in our survey to determine your service line material, please visit https://svud.org/service-line-material-inventory/ or call our office at (423) 344-8440, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. A list of all known and unknown service lines can be obtained at our main office located at 10700 Highway 58, Georgetown TN.

WHAT ABOUT copper in Drinking Water?

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

PHARMACEUTICALS

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. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by properly disposing of them at permanent prescription drug take-back locations. For a list of locations, visit http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

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, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to (423) 344-8440.

Abbreviations and Definitions

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.
- **Below Detectable Level (BDL)** – laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- **RAA** - Running Annual Average.
- **LRAA** – Locational Running Annual Average, or the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **HRAA** - Highest Running Annual Average of all sites tested.
- **Non-Detects** (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **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.
- **RTCR** – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016, and replaces the MCL for total coliform with levels 1 & 2 assessments to be performed if violations occur. SVUD had no violations of the regulated Total Coliform rule.
- **Micrograms per litter** (ug/l) - It is a metric unit used chemistry, medicine, and environmental testing to measure very small concentrations of a substance. It expresses the mass of a substance (in micrograms) dissolved in a specific volume of liquid (one liter).

REGULATED CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION Yes/No	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	MCLG	MCL	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	2025	No	0	0	0	< 2 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	Daily	No	Avg 1.29 ppm	0.8 – 1.8 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM - (Total Trihalomethanes)	Quarterly	No	Avg 9.2 ppb	4.1 to 19.1 ppb	N/A	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (1)	Daily	No	Avg 0.05 NTU	0.02 - 0.48 NTU Range	.3	TT	Soil Runoff
Halo acetic Acids (HAA5)	Quarterly	No	Avg 5.5 ppb	< 1 to 18 ppb	N/A	60 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Fluoride	Daily	No	Avg 0.63 ppm	0.00 – 1.3 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium	2023	No	Avg 3.88 ppm	3.44 - 4.32 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Lead (2)	2024	No	90th % 1.8 ppb	< 0.09 to 40.8 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2)	2024	No	90th % 1.05 ppm	0.020 to 1.51 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppb	AL = 1.3 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Cryptosporidium (raw water)	2015/2017	No	0				

(1) 99.89% of our samples were below the turbidity limit.

(2) During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 2 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action levels. 1 on copper and 1 on lead.

SVUD was in violation for last year's CCR since it did not contain the required health effects language regarding the action level exceedance (ALE) for Copper. This language has been included in this year's CCR.

2023 UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	SAMPLE PERIOD	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPORTING LIMIT
perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	2023	Avg 0.0125 ug/l	0.012 – 0.013 ug/l	0.005 ug/l
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2023	Avg 0.0275 ug/l	0.03 – 0.025 ug/l	0.003 ug/l
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid **(PFBS)**	2023	Avg 0.0224 ug/l	0.0067 – 0.049 ug/l	0.003 ug/l
perfluorohexanoic acid **(PFHxA)**	2023	Avg 0.026 ug/l	0.024 - 0.028 ug/l	0.003 ug/l
perfluoroheptanoic acid **(PFHpA)**	2023	Avg 0.0125 ug/l	0.011 - 0.014 ug/l	0.003 ug/l
perfluorohexaneulfonic acid **(PFHxS)**	2023	Avg 0.00445 ug/l	0.0042 – 0.0047 ug/l	0.003 ug/l
perfluorooctanoic acid **(PFOA)**	2023	Avg 0.032 ug/l	0.029 – 0.035 ug/l	0.004 ug/l
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid **(PFOS)**	2023	Avg 0.0165 ug/l	0.015 – 0.018 ug/l	0.004 ug/l
Lithium	2023	ND	BDL	N/A

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Pilot Studies

SVUD is on our 2nd pilot study to determine the best process to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from our drinking water. All utilities must meet the 2029 deadline for the new MCLs put out by the EPA.