

Knox County Utility Commission Water Quality Report
January 1 through December 31, 2025

Water System ID: KY0610110 Manager and CCR Contact Marshall Ramey Phone: (606) 546-5300 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1630, Barbourville, KY 40906
Office Address: 1905 KY 930, Barbourville, KY 40906 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am-4:30 pm Meeting Info: Monthly first Tuesday Knox Co Courthouse 5:30 pm

Our water supply is derived from four different surface water sources. Knox County Utility Commission has an intake in the Cumberland River. We also purchase water from three other utilities. Barbourville Utility Commission withdraws water from Laurel Lake and Cumberland River. Corbin City Utilities Commission withdraws from Corbin City Lake. Pineville Utility Commission withdraws water from Cannon Creek Lake. A Source Water Assessment has been completed for all four utilities. This assessment focuses on the susceptibility of the water source to contamination. All of the sources are under a moderate threat of contamination. The highest threats to these water supplies includes: accidental spills; untreated wastewater discharges; chemical management of right of ways; and siltation. Under certain circumstances contaminants could be released that would pose challenges to water treatment or even enter your drinking water. These activities and how they are conducted, are of interest to the entire community because they potentially affect your health and the cost of treating your water. The complete source water assessment plan can be reviewed at the Cumberland Valley Area Development District office in London, KY (606-864-7391).

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 (EPA) 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 discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). 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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

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 (NA) - does not apply.

Parts per million (ppm) - 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, ($\mu\text{g/L}$). 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.

Information about Lead: 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. Knox Co Utility Commission 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 formula, 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 Knox Co Utility at 606-546-5300. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We are required to annually provide information about the health risks from lead in drinking water to schools and childcare facilities. All elementary schools, secondary schools, and childcare facilities are eligible to be sampled for lead by our water system. Contact our office for scheduling or to learn results of previous sampling.

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 0.15 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.

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.

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.

The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with administrative regulations in 401 KAR Chapter 8. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data in this table, though representative, may be more than one year old. **Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office or at www.tapwaterinfo.com/knoxcountility.pdf**

A=Knox Co Utility Commission B=Barbourville Utilities C=City Utilities Commission Corbin D=Pineville Utility Commission

Regulated Contaminant Test Results

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Source	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	A= B= C= D=	0.012 0.014 0.021 0.008	0.012 to 0.014 0.014 to 0.014 0.021 to 0.021 0.008 to 0.008	Mar-25 Feb-25 Feb-25 Apr-25	No No No No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	A= B= C= D=	0.74 0.69 0.89 0.97	0.74 to 0.74 0.69 to 0.69 0.89 to 0.89 0.97 to 0.97	Mar-25 Feb-25 Feb-25 Apr-25	No No No No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	A= B= C=	0.1 0.25 0.327	0.1 to 0.1 0.25 to 0.25 0.327 to 0.327	Mar-25 Apr-25 May-25	No No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (report level=lowest avg. range of monthly ratios)	TT*	N/A	A= B= C= D=	1.00 1.3 1.15 1	1 to 1 1.07 to 1.6 1 to 2 1 to 1.02	2025 2025 2025 2025	No No No 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	A=	1.65 (highest average)	1.2 to 2	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	A=	70 (high site average)	34 to 70 (range of individual sites)	2025	Yes**	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	A=	64 (high site average)	30.2 to 70.5 (range of individual sites)	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Household Plumbing Contaminants

Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	A=	0.051 (90th percentile)	0 to 0.132	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead [1030] (ppb) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	A=	0 (90th percentile)	0 to 0	Jun-23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Other Constituents

Turbidity (NTU) TT	Allowable Levels	Source	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
* Representative samples						
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% monthly samples	A= B= C= D=	0.06 0.03 0.27 0.09	100 100 100 100	No No No No	Soil runoff

Your drinking water has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that EPA has not established drinking water standards. There are no MCLs and therefore no violations if found. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA determine where the contaminants occur and whether they should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our office during normal business hours.

Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR 5)	average	range (ppb)	date
Lithium	6.300	0 to 14.3	Oct-25

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Knox County Utility Commission received 2 violations for the 2nd and 3rd quarter Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) testing exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL). The MCL for HAA5 is 0.060. The 2nd quarter testing was 0.061 and the 3rd quarter testing was 0.069. Customers were notified last year by mail and subsequent testing has returned to below the MCL.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Knox County Utility Commission

As required by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a public health protection standard under regulation.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

You do not have to do anything but as our customers you have a right to know that these data are available.

You may share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, food establishments, medical facilities and businesses).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on your water and the unregulated contaminants we sampled, refer to the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) delivered by July 1 of each year.

For information on the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program, visit the EPA UCMR 5 Fact Sheet (www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf). For more information, please contact Marshall Ramey at 606-546-5300 or PO Box 1630 Barbourville, KY 40906.

This notice is being sent to you by Knox County Utility Commission.

KY Water System ID#: KY0610110

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