



**TELLICO AREA**  
SERVICES SYSTEM

## **WATER QUALITY REPORT**

For the reporting period of  
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

**2026**

**TELLICO AREA SERVICES SYSTEM  
WATER QUALITY REPORT 2025  
FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD OF January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025**

**IS MY WATER SAFE?**

Yes, our water meets all the health standards of the State of Tennessee Environmental Protection Agency. As you will see in the chart, out of the numerous tests that were conducted, only a few contaminants were detected and they were found to be at safe levels.

**WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?**

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Tellico Lake. 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) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses 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 (high), moderately susceptible (moderate) or slightly susceptible (low) based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The TASS Water System source is 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 EPA can be viewed on line at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the Tellico Area Services System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

**WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINATES IN MY WATER?**

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 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.
- 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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**DO I NEED 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 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).

## **LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**

The LSLI serves to create an inventory of the material of water service lines that connect to public water distribution lines, in an effort to identify areas that are high risk to lead in their drinking water. As of October 16, 2025, over 74% of service lines in the Tellico Area Services System have been identified, this percentage has all been identified as consisting of non-lead material. Currently, TASS has found no evidence of lead in customers' service lines but is working to identify the material of the remaining undetermined service lines. For information on lead service lines and how to identify what's in your home, please visit our website, [www.tassonline.org](http://www.tassonline.org), click on the Water Tab, and the link for Lead and Copper Info, or visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/48d5a32531c6409ea29ef7aab365be32>.

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. Tellico Area Services System 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 serviced 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 Tellico Area Services System at (423) 884-6400 or (865) 856-3530 to speak with Brian Maloney, Water Plant Chief Operator. 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>.

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.

## **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 activity at any utility facility, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 865-856-3530.

## **PHARMACEUTICALS IN DRINKING WATER**

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 disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Brian Maloney, Chief Water Plant Operator at (423) 884-6400 or (865)856-3530.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please contact our office in advance to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. These meetings are held at 12:00 noon on the third Wednesday of each month in the TASS Office Board Room located at 505 Clearview Road, Maryville, TN 37801.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

The TASS Board is made up of three (3) Commissioners from Monroe County and three (3) Commissioners from Loudon County. The Commissioners are appointed by the Monroe and Loudon County Mayors to serve a three-year term. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board under the TASS Customer Complaint Policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Visit our website at [www.tassonline.org](http://www.tassonline.org)

## 2025 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### Water Quality Data

Contaminant	Detection Units	MCLG in CCR units	MCL in CCR Units	Level found in CCR Units	Range of detections	Violation	Date of sample	Typical source of Contaminant
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform Bacteria	Positive or Negative	0	1 Positive Sample	0		No	2025	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup>	NTU	N/A	TT	0.11	0.02 NTU to 0.11 NTU	No	2025	Soil runoff
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper (90 <sup>th</sup> %) <sup>2</sup>	ppm	1300	AL=1.3 ppm	0.124 ppm	0.0023 to 0.4910 ppm	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
2-4-D	ppb	70	70 ppb	< 0.050 ppb		No	2024	Runoff from Herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine	ppb	0	3 ppb	< 0.068 ppb		No	2024	Runoff from Herbicide used on row crops
Fluoride	ppm	4	4 ppm	0.524 avg	0.415 ppm to 0.594 ppm	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (90 <sup>th</sup> %) <sup>2</sup>	ppb	0	AL= 15 ppb	0.5 ppb	< 0.09 to 5.9 ppb	No	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10 ppm	BDL	0.100*	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	8.02	8.02*	No	2025	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>								
Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppb	0	80 ppb	43.30	23.80 – 53.60	No	2025	By- product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acid <sup>3</sup>	ppb	0	60 ppb	43.38	19.10 – 51.30	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon <sup>4</sup>	ppm	N/A	TT	0.69 ppm avg	0.69 ppm to 1.24 ppm	No	2025	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	ppm	Mrdlg 4 ppm	Mrdl 4 ppm	2.08 ppm avg	1.30 ppm to 2.70 ppm	No	2025	Disinfectant used in water treatment to inactivate microbial contaminants.

<sup>1</sup> TASS met the treatment technique requirement for Turbidity. 100% of our samples met with the treatment technique for turbidity.

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water.

<sup>2</sup> During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. Note: Lead levels <0.09ppb were below the labs lowest detectable range.

<sup>3</sup> HAA [Haloacetic Acids]. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>4</sup> TASS met the treatment technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon

\* We are only required to collect one sample from a single location.

#### **Unregulated Contaminants: No unregulated contaminants were above the MRL.**

MRL – Minimum Reporting Level is the lowest analyte concentration that meets Data Quality Objectives that are developed based on the intended use of this method.

*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.*

## Source water link

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html>

## Lead in drinking water (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

## Pharmaceuticals

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/sustainability/programs/pharmaceuticals-takeback.html>

### WHAT DOES THIS CHART MEAN?

- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminate Level Goal, or the level of a contaminate in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminate Level, or the highest level of contaminate that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- TURBIDITY:** We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly. Turbidity does not present any risk to your health.
- ABOUT THE DATA:** Most of the data presented in this table is from testing done between the January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.
- 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 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### ABBREVIATIONS

- ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter, explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000,000.
- ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter, explained in terms of money as one penny in \$ 10,000.
- N/A: Not applicable
- NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit, used to measure cloudiness in water
- pCi/L: Pico curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water
- AL: Action level, or the concentration of a contaminate which, when exceeded, Triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- TT: Treatment technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of Contaminate in drinking water.
- <: Less than
- BDL: Below detection limit
- RTCR: Revised Total Coliform Rule