

# **2024 Consumer Confidence Report Data**

## **PORTAGE WATERWORKS, PWS ID:**

### **11100397**

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

**Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.**

## **Water System Information**

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact Jerad Royal at (608) 742-4727.

## **Opportunity for input on decisions affecting your water quality**

The common council meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers at the Municipal Building located at 115 W Pleasant Street, Portage, WI 53901.

## **Health Information**

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 (800-426-4791).

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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

## Source(s) of Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)	Status
3	Groundwater	125	Active
6	Groundwater	145	Active
8	Groundwater	269	Active
9	Groundwater	274	Active

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact, Jerad Royal at (608) 742-4727.

## Educational 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, 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 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 volatile 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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

# Definitions

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HA and HAL	HA: Health Advisory. An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information. HAL: Health Advisory Level is a concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA.
HI	HI: Hazard Index: A Hazard Index is used to assess the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of contaminants. Hazard Index guidance for a class of contaminants or mixture of contaminants may be determined by the US EPA or Wisconsin Department of Health Services. If a Health Index is exceeded a system may be required to post a public notice.
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 or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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: 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.
MFL	million fibers per liter
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 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.
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
PHGS	PHGS: Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.
RPHGS	RPHGS: Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.
SMCL	Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

### Disinfection Byproducts

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2024)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
HAA5 (ppb)	B 10	60	60	5	5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	B 10	80	0	11.3	11.3		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	B 17	60	60	3	3		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	B 17	80	0	2.0	2.0		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.016	0.015 - 0.016	5/11/2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.6	0.4 - 0.6	5/11/2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL (ppb)		100		3.5000	0.0000 - 3.5000	5/11/2023	No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)		10	10	0.74	0.00 - 0.74		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	98.50	49.60 - 98.50	5/11/2023	No	n/a

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	Range	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.3710	0.0076 - 0.6900	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/6/2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	6.20	0.00 - 44.80	1 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/6/2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Note: The recommended health-based levels in the table below were in effect in 2024. These levels were revised by WDHS in 2025. They can be found here

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>.

Typical Source of Contaminant		Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get in groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and release from consumer products in landfills.			
Contaminant (units)	Site	RPHGS or HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)
PFBS (ppt)		450000	2.39	0.00 - 2.39	3/21/2023

<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>		<b>Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get in groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and release from consumer products in landfills.</b>			
<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>RPHGS or HAL (PPT)</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2024)</b>
PFHXS (ppt)		40	5.84	0.00 - 5.84	3/21/2023
PFOA (ppt)		20	0.74	0.00 - 0.74	3/21/2023
PFHXA (ppt)		150000	1.32	0.00 - 1.32	5/11/2023
PFBA (ppt)		10000	1.22	0.00 - 1.22	5/11/2023
PFOA AND PFOS TOTAL (ppt)		20	0.61	0.00 - 0.61	5/11/2023

### Radioactive Contaminants

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2024)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	3.6	2.3 - 3.6	1/7/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	0.7	0.4 - 0.7	1/7/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	3.8	3.1 - 3.8	1/7/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l)		30	0	1.2	0.3 - 1.2	1/7/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Contaminants with a Public Health Groundwater Standard, Health Advisory Level, or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

The following table lists contaminants which were detected in your water and that have either a Public Health Groundwater Standard (PHGS), Health Advisory Level (HAL), or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL), or both. There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed Health Advisory Levels, Public Health Groundwater Standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels are levels that do not present health concerns but may pose aesthetic problems such as objectionable taste,

odor, or color. Public Health Groundwater Standards and Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk.

Contaminant (units)	Site	SMCL (ppm)	PHGS or HAL (ppm)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Typical Source of Contaminant
SULFATE (ppm)		250		24.00	8.20 - 24.00	5/11/2023	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

## 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. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring. See below for detected results from UCMR5 Testing SE1-2024.

Contaminant (units)	PHGS or HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)
PFHxS	10	8.1	

## Additional Health Information

**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. Portage Waterworks 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 Portage Waterworks (Matt Holtan at (608) 742-4727). 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>.



### **Additional Information on Service Line Materials**

We are required to develop an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 and to make the inventory publicly accessible. You can access the service line inventory here/by: <https://www.portagewi.gov/utilities-water-and-wastewater>