

# *2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

## *McDowell County-Nebo*

Water System Number: NC 10-56-032

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Dewayne Riddle at (828)652-6428. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.**

### **What EPA Wants You to Know**

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 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 (800-426-4791).

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. *McDowell County-Nebo* 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 2 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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; and 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 for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

The water that is used by this system is Surface water and it is purchased from The City of Marion.

## Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for The City of Marion was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

**Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)**

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating	SWAP Report Date
Buck Creek	Moderate	September 2022
Mackey Creek	Moderate	September 2022
Clear Creek	Moderate	September 2022

The complete SWAP Assessment report for The City of Marion may be viewed on the Web at: <https://www.ncwater.org/?page=600> Note that because SWAP results and reports are periodically updated by the PWS Section, the results available on this website may differ from the results that were available at the time this CCR was prepared. If you are unable to access your SWAP report on the web, you may mail a written request for a printed copy to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634, or email requests to [swap@deq.nc.gov](mailto:swap@deq.nc.gov). Please indicate your system name, number, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report, please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at (919) 707-9098.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

## Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year

We received 0 violations for 2023.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

- **Not-Applicable (N/A)** – Information not applicable/not required for that water system or for that particular rule.
  
- **Non-Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.
  
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - 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 (ug/L)** - 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.
  
- **Variances and Exceptions** – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or Treatment Technique under certain conditions.
  
- **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.
  
- **Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Disinfection 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.

- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)** – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Ø **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.

Ø **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.

### Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for each contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2023.** The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

#### Turbidity\*

Contaminant (units)	Treatment Technique (TT) Violation  Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	Treatment Technique (TT)  Violation if:	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU) - Highest single turbidity measurement	N	0.15 NTU	N/A	Turbidity > 1 NTU	Soil runoff

Turbidity (%) - Lowest monthly percentage (%) of samples meeting turbidity limits	N	100%	N/A	Less than 95% of monthly turbidity measurements are $\leq$ 0.3 NTU	
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\* Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU.

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Contaminant (units)	TT Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA) Removal Ratio	Range Monthly Removal Ratio Low - High	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination	Compliance Method  (step 1 or ACC#)
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal Ratio  (TOC)-Treated	N	1.0	1.00 1.00	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	ACC 2-Treated Water  TOC<2.0 mg/L

### Disinfectant Residuals Summary

Year Sampled 2023	MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (RAA)	Range Low High	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)				4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

### Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Compliance- Based upon Locational Annual Ave. (LRAA)

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb)							
	2023	N	62	30 90	N/A	80	
Location B02	2023	N	46	25 66	N/A	80	
HAA5 (ppb)							
Location B01	2023	N	43	18 76	N/A	60	

Disinfection Byproduct	Year Sampled	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water (highest LRAA)	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
TTHM (ppb)								
	2023	N	62	30	90	N/A	80	
Location (B02)	2023	N	38	17	61	N/A	60	

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
				Low	High			
Fluoride (ppm)	5/16/23	N	.052	N/A		4	4	Erosion of natural deposits: water additives which promote strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories.

The PWS Section requires monitoring for other Misc. Contaminants, some for which the EPA has set national secondary drinking water standards (SMCLs) because they may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, and/or color in drinking water. The contaminants with SMCLs normally do not have health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

### Other Miscellaneous Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range		SMCL
				Low	High	
Sodium (ppm)	5/16/23	N	15		N/A	N/A
Sulfate (ppm)	5/16/23	N	8.5		N/A	250
pH	5/16/23	N	7.4		N/A	6.5 to 8.5