

Water Quality Report



2023

**2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PARIS BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT THE WATER PROVIDED BY THE PARIS BPU MEETS OR EXCEEDS ESTABLISHED WATER QUALITY STANDARDS!

BPU Water Is Safe: We are pleased to report to you, our customer, that our drinking water is safe. It meets daily quality tests and periodic additional tests with an approved laboratory based upon schedules given us by federal and state regulations. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Water Quality Data: The following table shows test results currently on file for each respective parameter for calendar year 2023.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0	Presence/ Absence	0	>1	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper	No	0.026 90 th Percentile	ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Sodium	No	6.61	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Lead	No	ND 90 th Percentile	ppb	0	15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	0.609(avg) 0.550 – 0.670 (range)	ppm	2	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	No	<0.1	ppm	10	10	Run-off from fertilizing activities; left-over nitrogen from septic systems
Disinfection By-products						
TTHM (Total trihalo-methanes)	No	8.250	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THAA (Total Haloacetic Acids)	No	1.420	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	No	1.025(avg) 0.600 – 1.400 (range)	ppm	<2.0	<4.0	Water additive used to control Microbes

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) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - 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 Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

Water Source: BPU water originates as groundwater and is pumped from three wells dug deep into the McNairy Sand Aquifer. The Tennessee Dept. of Environment has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report to assess the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. Water sources are rated based on geological factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Our rating is reasonably susceptible. An explanation of the Source Water Assessment Program, assessment summaries, and susceptibility scorings can be viewed at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html>. A Well Head Protection Plan is also required by EPA and TDEC of all water systems. The current copy of our plan can be viewed at the BPU office, 117 E. Washington Street.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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, livestock operations, and wildlife.
 - Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil/gas production, or farming.
 - Pesticides and herbicides from 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 come from gas stations, stormwater runoff and septic systems.
 - Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production.
- In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and TDEC prescribe 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.

Iron: Iron occurs naturally in our raw water and occasionally accumulates in the distribution system. Iron shows up as “red” or “rusty” water at your tap. Although you do not want to drink water that is not clear, iron is not considered to be a hazard to your health. We test for iron daily and it is usually less than 0.03 ppm. The aesthetic limit for iron is 0.3 ppm.

Lead and Copper: During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 0 out of 30 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level (the concentration which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow). Lead and copper testing is performed every three years according to state requirements.

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. BPU 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Contaminants and Potential Health Effects: As shown in the table, our system had no violations. Tests do show that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

To Those More Vulnerable: 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

For More Info: For more information about this report, you may contact Tony Brown, Vice President of Water/Wastewater Operations, at 731-642-1322. Our regular board meetings are scheduled the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the main office at 117 East Washington Street.

Our Board: Board members serve four-year terms. Vacancies are filled by appointment by the Paris City Mayor and confirmed by the city commissioners as directed by state law. Decisions by the board concerning customer complaints 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.