

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Big Creek Utility District Water Quality Report 2025

Is My Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our water meets all of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. What contaminants were detected are listed in the Water Quality Data Chart. We found all of these contaminants to be within safe levels.

What is the Source of My Water?

Your water comes from Ranger Creek Reservoir, which is primarily surface water. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and in conjunction with the State have determined the vulnerability of our water supply to contamination. TDEC has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for the untreated water sources. The 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, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geological factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. Our source water rating is moderately susceptible. An explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the water system to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Why are there Contaminants in My Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. 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).

Sources of Water

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.

Contaminates 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 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 use.
- 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, the EPA and TDEC 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. Immunocompromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Think before you flush!

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 over 340 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties. To find a convenient location, please visit: <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>. The closest location in our area is the Grundy County Sheriff Department at 62 Spring Street Altamont Tn. 37301 or 931-692-3466.

Lead in Drinking Water?

If present, 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 home plumbing. Big Creek Utility District 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 exposure. 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 Big Creek Utility District at 931-779-3751 or 931-692-2505. 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>. To maintain compliance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rules Revisions (LCRR) requirement, we completed an initial Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) and we are continuing to update and maintain it. If a customer needs access to this inventory please contact Big Creek Utility District at 931-779-3751 or 931-692-2505.

How can I get involved?

The Big Creek Utility District Board of Commissioners has a meeting on the third Monday of each month at our billing office in Altamont at 6:00 pm. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Is Our Water System Meeting Other Rules that Govern our Operations?

TDEC and the EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at Big Creek Utility District work to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Board of Commissioners

Commissioners for Big Creek Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Grundy County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners. Decisions by the Board on customer complaints brought before the Board under the District's 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.

Equal Opportunity Employer

In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

For more information about your drinking water, please call Allen Joslyn at 931-692-2505 or Wally Nolan at 931-779-3751.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water Quality Data

Definitions of abbreviations and acronyms used in this CCR

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Levels, or 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.
- **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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **AL - Action Level,** or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **ppm or mg/L - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter,** explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000.
- **ppb or ug/L - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter,** explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units - Turbidity** is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Turbidity does not present any risk to your health.** We monitor turbidity, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly.
- **TT - Treatment Technique** or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **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.
- **Coliforms -** are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system.

The data presented in this table is from testing done between January and December of 2025

Contaminant	Violation Y/ N	Level Detected in CCR Units	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Typical source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon* (ppm)	N	51% removal 35% required	n/a	2025	TT	n/a	Naturally present in the environment.
Chlorine (ppm)	N	1.47	1.1 - 2.4	2025	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Turbidity** (NTU)	N	.172	.019 - .081	2025	TT	n/a	Soil runoff.
Lead*** (ppb)	N	90 th % - 1.0	0.2 - 1.8	2023	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper*** (ppm)	N	90 th % - 0.129	.0031 - 0.229	2023	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.84 AVG	0.62 - 0.85	2025	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium (ppm)	N	9.48	9.48	2025	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	N	37.5	20.0 - 38.0	2025	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	49.8	29.2 - 65.4	2025	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform Bacteria****	N	n/a	n/a	2025	TT	0	Naturally present in the environment.

* The treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon were met in 2025.

** We met the treatment technique requirements for turbidity with 100 % of monthly samples below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU.

*** During the most recent round of lead and copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level. For the Lead results, 0.2 ppb is the lowest the lab can detect accurately.

**** We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one corrective action.