Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District

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Annual Water Quality Report for 2025

This Report covers the Baltic Water System (PWS ID #OH7900112)

Introduction

The Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, and how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

Background and Governance

Establishment of the Regional District

To ensure the long-term sustainability of water and sewer services, the Village of Baltic transitioned its utility operations to the Tuscarawas Water and Sewer District (the "District"). The District is a regional water and sewer entity created under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. This regional structure was necessary because the Village of Baltic spans across Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties. While a single county has legal limitations on serving customers outside its jurisdictional boundaries, a regional district under Chapter 6119 has the legal authority to serve all residents across these county lines.

Operations and Management Agency

Under the terms of the 2024 Operations Agreement, the District has designated the Tuscarawas County Commissioners and the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District (the "County") as its official agent. While the District owns the facilities and assets, it has transferred full operational control to the County. This means the County is responsible for:

- **Day-to-Day Operations**: Providing water and sewer services in accordance with Ohio EPA regulations.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance**: Operating, maintaining, designing, and reconstructing the system's facilities as needed.
- **Financial Management**: Performing all financial filings and necessary audits.
- **Customer Service**: Managing customer billing, fees, and the enforcement of the District's Code of Regulations.

Governance and Oversight

The District continues to be governed by its own Board of Trustees. The District Board cooperates with the County to ensure the system is managed in a financially responsible manner. The County provides the District Board with quarterly reports on operations and ensures the basic funding necessary for the Board’s oversight activities.

This partnership allows the Baltic system to benefit from the professional engineering and administrative resources of the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District while maintaining the unique regional legal status required to serve this tri-county community.

Our Mission

In accordance with our Operations Agreement with the regional district, The Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District is committed to providing safe, high quality water services to our

community, while maintaining a standard of excellence in customer service and environmental conservation.

Source Water

Source Water Assessment

In August 2003, Ohio EPA prepared a source water assessment report for the Baltic PWS. According to this report, the Baltic source water supply has moderate susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the presence of a moderately thick protective layer of shale overlying the aquifer. Copies of the source water assessment prepared for the Baltic PWS can be obtained by contacting the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District at (330) 874-3262.

Source Water Information

The Tuscarawas Water and Sewer District sources its drinking water for the Village of Baltic from two groundwater wells situated near the District's Water Treatment Plant. Well #1, located at 200 Buena Vista Road, and Well #6, at 101 Dunker Road, are both drilled to a depth of 270 feet. These wells draw water from the Little Indian aquifer, an underground water source in this region of Ohio. These wells produced 30.88 million gallons of drinking water in 2025.

What are sources of contamination to drinking 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

(B) 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;

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

(D) 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; and

(E) 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, USEPA 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.

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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead Educational Information

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. The Tuscarawas Metropolitan Sewer District 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 at 800-426-4791 or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District office at 9944 Wilkshire Boulevard NE, Bolivar, OH 44612.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

As part of PFAS Initial Monitoring required by the federal 2024 PFAS drinking water rule, all affected PWSs are required to monitor PFAS in their finished water and report results to Ohio EPA by April 26, 2027. Additionally, all Community PWSs are required to share the results (or those of their wholesaler) in CCRs delivered by July 1, 2027. To meet the sampling requirements, PWSs collected new samples and/or substituted existing samples, such as those from the Unregulated Contaminant Rule 5 (UCMR 5).

We began PFAS monitoring in 2026. Results of this monitoring will be shared in the 2026 Water Quality Report available next year.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2025 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

To participate in decisions regarding your drinking water, you can attend the quarterly meetings of the Tuscarawas Water and Sewer District that owns and operates the system. Although the meeting dates for 2025 thru 2026 have not yet been set, they will be announced after the issuance of this Annual Water Quality Report. For more information on meeting dates and how to get involved, please contact the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District or visit https://tcmsd.org/village-of-baltic-tuscarawas-water-and-sewer-district.

For more information on your drinking water contact Michael Jones, P.E. or Justin Angel at (330) 874-3262.

About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District conducted sampling for bacteria; nitrate; inorganic; radiological; volatile organic; disinfection byproducts; chlorine; and lead and copper during 2025. Samples were collected for a total of 41 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Village of Baltic water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Village of Baltic drinking water.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	0.6	N/A	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	5	0	1.6	N/A	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.06	N/A	No	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1.63	N/A	No	2025	Discharge from steel and pulp

Contaminant (units)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
							mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.61	N/A	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.5	N/A	No	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.33	0.92 – 1.45	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	N/A	80	7.95	4.55 – 7.95	No	2025	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	N/A	60	26.3	9.98 – 26.3	No	2025	By-products of drinking water chlorination.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (units)	**Action Level (AL)**	**MCLG**	**Individual Results over AL**	**90TH Percentile Value**	**Violation?**	**Year Sampled**	**Typical Source of Contaminants**
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	10	No	2025	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 10 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						

Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0.1	No	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 10 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the lead action level of 1.3 ppm.						

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Year	Level Found	Range of Detections
Chloroform (ppb)	2025	3.0	1.2 – 3.0
Nickel (ppb)	2025	2.4	N/A

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Less Than "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Not Applicable (N/A) – Abbreviation meaning that this does not apply to our report.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or **Micrograms per Liter (µg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Parts per Million (ppm) or **Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.