BELMONT COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT - DISTRICT 3
DRINKING WATER CONSUMER REPORT FOR 2023

The Belmont County Water & 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, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

The Belmont County Water & Sewer District - District 3 water supply is located North of Bellaire, Ohio, from a well that is supplied by the aquifer in the region.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?
The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the grounds, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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 chemicals 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; (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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations established 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs to take special precautions?
Some people may be more vunerable 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. USEPA/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).

Source Water Susceptibility Report (BCWSD)
An assessment that was conducted by the Ohio EPA places the well aquifer at a HIGH susceptibility rating due to the following: (A) Presence of a relatively permeable layer of silty clay overlying the aquifier; (B) Shallow depth (less than 20 feet below ground surface) of the acquifier; (C) The identification of VOC contaminated soils within the one year time of travel; (D) Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area; (E) The presence of manmade contaminants in treated water. To obtain a copy of the report or for more information contact, Kelly Porter, Director, Belmont County Water & Sewer District at 740-695-3144.

About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Bemont County Water & Sewer District conducted sampling for synthetic organic in 2023, and bacteria and volatile organic contaminants during 2023.

The Ohio EPA requires monitoring for a few contaminants less than once a year because they do not change frequently.

Other regulated contaminants that the district tested with no violation being found are as follows: antimony, arsenic, beryllium nickel, thallium, lead, atrazine, simazine, and copper.
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 Belmont County Water & 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw or by calling 614-644-2752. 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 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions for terms and abbreviations used in the report are as follows:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contamimant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MCLGS allowed for a margin of safety.

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 contamimant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Not Detected (ND): Not Detected.

Not Applicable (NA): Not applicable.

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): Are units of measure of a contaminant.

Parts per Billion (ppb): 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): Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

In 2023 the Belmont County Water & Sewer District had a current unconditional license to operate our system.

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Belmont County Commissioners which meet on Wednesdays at the Belmont County Courthouse, Main Street, St. Clairsville, OH 43950. For more information contact Commissioners at 740-699-2155.

On the following page is information on those contaminants that were found in the Belmont County Water & Sewer District.

Table of detected contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Inorganic Contaminants							
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	1.26	1.26-1.26	NO	2023	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries. Errosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	2.32	2.32	NO	2023	Leaching from metal alloys.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.573	.566-.573	NO	2023	Run off from fertilitzer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha pCi/L	0	15	0.112	0.112	NO	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5.0	0.668	N/A	NO	2020	Erosion of natural deposits;
	The MCL for Radium is comprised of both Radium 226 and Radium 228. Known as Combined Radium 226/228						
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	1.09	.95 - 1.09	NO	2023	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acid 5 (ppb)	N/A	60	16.1	8.62-24.6	NO	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	52.6	10.4-55.6	NO	2023	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	**Action Level (AL)**	**Individual Results over the AL**		**90% of test levels were less than**	**Violation**	**Year Sampled**	**Typical Source of Contaminants**
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	none		3.45	NO	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	none		0.615	NO	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
	Zero out of 120 samples collected for copper were above the action level of 1.3 ppm Zero out of 120 samples collected for lead were above the action level of 15 ppb						

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. In 2023 The Belmont County Water & Sewer District participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call the Belmont County Water and Sewer District Water Treatment Plant at 740-676-7666

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminates on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are one indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards During July 2023, we did not complete all monitoring for total coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water. We are required to collect and analyze 30 total coliform samples per month. During July of 2023, we failed to do this and only collected and analyzed a total of 29 total coliform samples. All monitoring for total coliform since July 2023, has been compliant with our monitoring schedule. To prevent this issue from occurring again we now have several employees who physically count the number of total coliform samples collected and analyzed per month.

The Village of Bridgeport connection of the Belmont County Water & Sewer District (PWS OH0701803) is no longer in existence. The Village of Bridgeport connection has now been incorporated into the Belmont County Water & Sewer District and falls under public water system identification number OH0700412.

The water for the former Village of Bridgeport connection was previously provided by the City of Martins Ferry.

The water for the former Village of Bridgeport connection is now provided solely by the Belmont County Water & Sewer District, which includes all water provided in 2023.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

EPA.Ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, *Governor* Jon Husted, *Lt. Governor* Anne M. Vogel, *Director*

NOTICE OF VIOLATION – ACTION REQUIRED

August 15, 2023

Transmitted Electronically

Re: Belmont County SSD #3
NOV
Drinking Water Program
Belmont County
PWS ID: OH0700412

Kelly Porter, Director
Belmont County Sanitary Sewer District
P.O. Box 457
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

Subject: Failure to Sample Drinking Water for Total Coliforms as Required

Dear Mr. Porter:

The Belmont County SSD #3 is in violation of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-81-51 for failure to comply with total coliform monitoring requirements.

Monitoring Period:	July of 2023
Required Coliform Monitoring:	30 routines per month
Sample Results Submitted:	29 routine samples

To ensure the safety of drinking water provided by your system, monitoring for total coliforms is essential.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. **Notify the people served by this water system.** As soon as possible, but no later than one year after learning of this violation, issue the enclosed public notice in accordance with OAC Rule 3745-81-32 using the following method(s) to reach all persons served.

    - Mail or other direct delivery to each customer; or
    - Annual Consumer Confidence Report provided it's distributed within one year after learning of the violation; and
    - If necessary to reach all persons regularly served, use other notification methods also, such as newspaper publication, public posting, or Internet posting.

    NOTE: Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the violation persists, but in no case for less than seven (7) days, even if the violation is resolved. The language in italics on the enclosed public notice is mandatory and must be included, as written. Do not make changes to the public notice without consulting the Ohio EPA beforehand.

2. **In accordance with OAC Rule 3745-81-32(A)(3), complete the enclosed verification form within 10 days of issuing the Public Notice** and mail it to Ohio EPA – Southeast Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, 2195 East Front Street, Logan OH 43138, or email to Alix.Teisiger@epa.ohio.gov. Include a copy of each notice distributed, published or posted.

If total coliform samples were collected as required, submit the results as soon as possible. The monitoring violation would be rescinded, and a reporting violation given for late submittal of the results.

Failure to comply with Chapter 6109 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules promulgated thereunder may result in a civil or administrative penalty. Please note that the submission of any requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties as provided in Section 6109.33 of the Ohio Revised Code or administrative penalties as provided in Section 6109.23 of the Ohio Revised Code

Ensure confidence of the quality of your water and save money by sampling on time. It costs an average of $25 for each total coliform sample and $20 for each nitrate sample. **Failing to sample for total coliform or nitrate will cost you $150 or more in penalties for each monitoring violation. Save a Dime. Sample on Time!**

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or any other matter involving your water system, please feel free to contact me by email alix.teisinger@epa.ohio.gov or by phone at (740) 380-5424.

Sincerely,

Alix Teisinger

Alix Teisinger
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

AT/cd

ec: Kelly Porter, Administrative Contact, kelly.porter@belmontcountywater.com, and bcssdwaterplant@att.net
Craig Harris, ORC, craig.harris@belmontcountywater.com
Rich Lucas, Belmont County Health Department, rlucas@belmontcountyhealth.com
Chad Sutton, Belmont County Distribution, chad.sutton@belmontcountywater.com

Enclosures Tier 3 Public Notification
Public Notice Instructions and Verification Form

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Monitoring requirements were not met for
Belmont County SSD #3

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During July 2023 we "did not monitor or test" or "did not complete all monitoring or testing" for total coliform bacteria, and therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This notice is to inform you that Belmont County SSD #3 did not monitor and report results for the presence of total coliform bacteria in the public drinking water system during the July 2023 time period, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

What is being done?

Upon being notified of this violation, the water supply was required to have the drinking water analyzed for the above mentioned parameters. The water supplier will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

For more information, please contact David McMillen (name of contact) at 740-676-7666 (phone number)

or at 5100 Guernsey St. Bellaire, Ohio 43906 (mailing address).

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

PWSID#:OH0700412_ Date distributed: _____

Tier 3: Routine Monitoring Community (Type 3A)