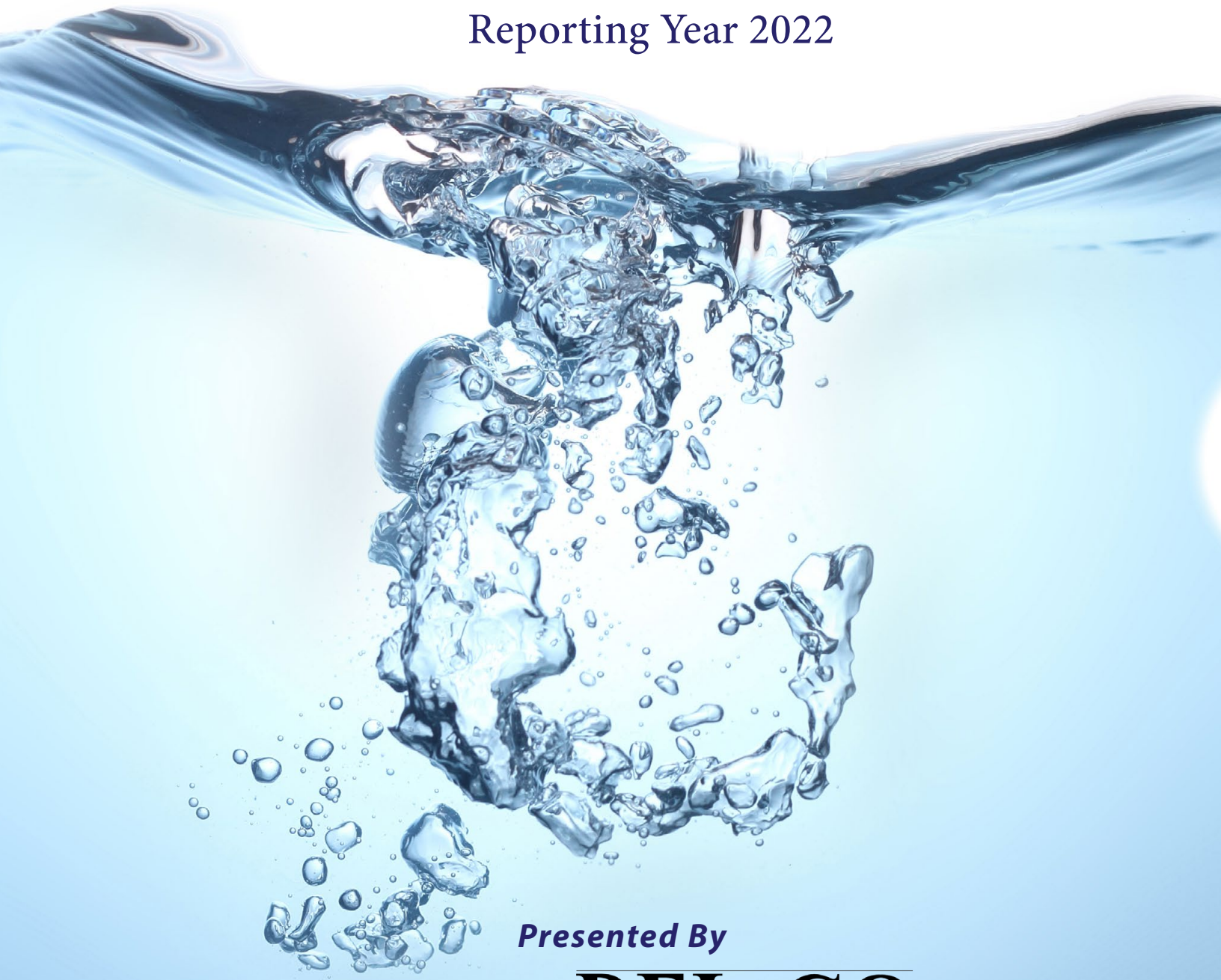
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By

DEL-CO WATER COMPANY

PWS ID#: 2101412

Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Source Water Assessment

The Del-Co Water Company's surface water sources supply water to three of the system's four water treatment plants: the Olentangy Plant, the Ralph E. Scott (Alum Creek) Plant, and the Timothy F. McNamara (Old State) Plant. Surface water is by its nature susceptible to contamination, and there are numerous potential contaminant sources, including agricultural runoff, oil and gas wells, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. As a result, the surface water supplied to these plants is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination. It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area.

Del-Co also obtains groundwater from its Knox County aquifer and wellfield, which is treated by the Thomas E. Steward Plant. In October 2001, the Ohio EPA approved Del-Co's Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for this wellfield. The source water here is also considered to have a relatively high susceptibility to contamination due to the lack of a significant confining layer above the sand-and-gravel aquifer and the presence of numerous potential contamination sources within the protection area.

Historically, the Del-Co public water system has effectively treated its source waters to meet drinking water quality standards. By implementing measures to protect the Olentangy River, O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, Alum Creek Reservoir, and the local aquifer, the potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased. More information on Del-Co Water Company's Drinking Source Water Assessment reports may be obtained by calling Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Del-Co's primary surface water supplies are the Olentangy River, the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, and the Alum Creek Reservoir. The Olentangy River runs for 88 miles, originating in Galion and flowing to the Scioto River. The O'Shaughnessy Reservoir is located about nine miles northwest of Columbus in Delaware County and covers an average of 1,000 surface acres. The Alum Creek Reservoir is located about 10 miles southeast of Delaware and covers an average of 3,400 surface acres. Del-Co also obtains water from a wellfield in Knox County. Four wells rated at 1,300 gallons per minute each draw water from the aquifer.Combined, our treatment facilities provide our customers with an average of nearly 13 million gallons of drinking water per day.

The watershed for our water supply is part of the Upper Scioto watershed, which covers an area of roughly 450 square miles on the Olentangy River, 770 square miles on O'Shaughnessy, and 125 square miles on Alum Creek. An average of 38 inches of rainfall annually refills the watershed. Snowmelt also contributes to the water supply. To learn more about our watershed online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway.

Community Participation

Customers are encouraged to participate in discussions about Del-Co's drinking water by attending the annual meeting on Thursday, July 27, 2023 or by contacting the office. Del-Co's contact information is available at http://delcowater.org/contact-us/.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium Serratia marcescens. Serratia is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037 or Spencer Sheldon at (740) 548-7746.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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://www.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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

800 TRILLION

1 The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

99

50 The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The percent of the human brain that contains water.

75

330 MILLION The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2022	3	3	0.30	<0.07–0.58	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.014	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	1.59	1.37–1.67	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	1.08	0.82–1.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	48.7	17.3–56.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	1.35	0.26–1.35	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2022	TT[1]	NA	1.22	1.0–2.0	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	80[2]	NA	71.9	31.3–84.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[3] (NTU)	2022	TT	NA	0.21	0.02–0.21	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2022	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.3	1.3	0.23	0.007–0.396	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0	2.2	0.1–59.3[4]	1/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

[1] The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

[2] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[3] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

[4] One sample at Site 1 had results above the AL (59.3 ppb).

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

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 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.

NA: Not applicable.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.