

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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### 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Berlin Township June 24, 2024

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we provide to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Your source of water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment

to determine the susceptibility

of potential contamination. The

susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale from "very low" to "high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has an updated Surface Water Intake Protection plan for Fighting Island Intake. The plan has seven elements that include: rolls and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. If you would like to know more about this report, please contact GLWA at (313-926-8127).

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds federal and state requirements. 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 establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

GLWA routinely monitors for contaminants in Berlin Charter Township's drinking water according to federal and state laws. The table provided shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy,

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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. 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 (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Berlin Charter Township 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Berlin Charter Township has no known lead service lines. There are currently 3560 service lines with approximately 2366 service lines of unknown material.

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 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 storm water 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 agricultural, storm water 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, also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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In the table provided you would find many of these terms and abbreviations unfamiliar. To help you better understand these terms we provided definitions:

Key to Detected Contaminants Tables  
Symbol, Abbreviation for Definition/  
Explanation

**MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**

The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**ppb: Parts per billion (one in one billion)**

The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.

**ppm: Parts per million (one in one million)**

The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.

**NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units**

Measures the cloudiness of water.

**ND: Not Detected**

**TT: Treatment Technique**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**AL: Action Level**

The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**HAA5: Haloacetic acids**

HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, ichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.

**TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes**

Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.

**n/a: Not applicable**

**>: Greater than**

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, cramps, and associated headaches.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jason Dobson, Berlin Charter Township Water/Wastewater Superintendent 734-586-8680 ext. 6. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Copies of this report are available at Berlin Charter Township, 8000 Swan View Drive, Newport, MI 48166. Copies of this report will not be mailed.

**JUNE 24, 2024**