

**2023 Annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report**  
**Town of Ethel**  
**PWS ID # 0040002**

Report Completed on May 28, 2024

We're pleased to present to you your 2023 Annual Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you 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.

**Sources of Water**

Our water source consists of 3 wells that draw from the Lower Wilcox Aquifer.

**Water System Information**

A source water assessment has been completed for the water supply to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water to identify potential sources of contamination. Our water supply received a lower susceptibility ranking to contamination.

This past year we replaced old meters and repaired leaks as needed. The cost for water is used to repair leaks, maintain piping, read the meters, monthly billing, water sampling required by MSDH, and any other daily water system duties. The water is checked bi-weekly and sampled monthly to ensure quality drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Galen Shumaker at 601-416-7402. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Ethel Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

**Definitions**

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:
<b>Action Level</b> - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>Treatment Technique (TT)</b> - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level</b> - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</b> - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.
<b>ppb</b> - parts per billion = micrograms per liter (= 1 drop in 1 billion gallons)
<b>ppm</b> - parts per million = milligrams per liter (= 1 drop in 1 million gallons)

## CONTAMINANT TABLE

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
13. Barium	N	2022*	0.0263 ppm	No Range	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
83. Chlorine	N	2023	1.00 ppm	0.70 to 1.20	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
84. Haloacetic Acids HAA5	N	2022*	2.2 ppb	No Range	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
85. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2022*	6.33 ppb	No Range	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\* Most recent sample results available

### Additional Information for Lead

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. Our water system 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>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

### Additional Information

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 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 (800-426-4791).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

The average household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day. There are many low cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- ▶ Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath.
- ▶ Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ▶ Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- ▶ Run your clothes wash and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ▶ Water plants only when necessary.
- ▶ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ▶ Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- ▶ Teach your children about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- ▶ Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

Please call our office if you have any questions.