

# South Blount County Utility District Water Quality Report for 2026

## Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see from the chart on the back, we only detected a few of these contaminants.

## Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request.

## What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Tellico Lake. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants, and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The South Blount County Utility District source was rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact South Blount County Utility District to obtain copies of specific assessments.

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Other Information

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:

- 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. South Blount County Utility District's water treatment processes are designed

to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 at 800-426-4791.

## Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. South Blount County Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposure. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact South Blount County Utility District at 865-982-3560. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

South Blount County Utility District has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory, which can be accessed on our website, <https://www.southblountutility.org/safety/get-the-lead-out>

## Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 865-982-3560.

## How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at 320 Partnership Parkway. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

**For more information about your drinking water, please call Quentin Caldwell at 865-982-3560 Ext. 1004.**

# Water Quality Data 2025

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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, or 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, or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal, or 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.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **BDL**: Below Detection Limit
- **RAA** – Running Annual Average
- **LRAA** – Locational Running Annual Average, or the average of sample analytical results for sample taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained in terms of money as one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **pCi/L**: Picocuries per liter.
- **NTU**: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTUs is just noticeable to the average person.
- **RTCR** – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016, and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- **Level 1 Assessment** – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment** – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections Lowest to Highest	Date of Sample	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)</b>	Yes	Present	2 Positive Samples	5-14-25 and 5-15-25	Presence or Absence	0	TT	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Fecal Coliform and E. coli**</b>	Yes	Present	1 Positive Sample	5-15-25	Presence or Absence	0	< 2 positive samples per month*	Human and animal fecal waste
<b>Turbidity***</b>	No	0.04	0.01 to 0.04	2025	NTU	n/a	TT 95% of samples to be < 0.3 NTU in a given month	Soil runoff
<b>Sodium</b>	No	7.33	7.33****	1-08-25	ppm	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
<b>Nitrate (as Nitrogen)</b>	No	.107	.107****	8-09-25	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Fluoride</b>	No	0.3143	0.182 to 0.387	2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits Water additive which promotes strong teeth
<b>Chlorine</b>	No	1.72 (RAA)	1.27 to 2.28	2025	ppm	4 MRDLG	4 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)</b>	No	49 (highest LRAA)	27 to 58	2025	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) System</b>	No	47 (highest LRAA)	28 to 75	2025	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<b>Lead*****</b>	Yes	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 4.0	< 1.0 to 26.6	2024	ppb	0	2 of 30 Exceeding action level  Action Level = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>Copper</b>	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.185	< 0.001 to 0.827	2024	ppm	0	0 of 30 Exceeding action level  Action Level = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

\*E. coli: A system is in compliance with the MCL for E. coli for samples unless any of the conditions identified in parts 1 through 4 occur.

1. The system has an E. coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform positive routine sample.
2. The system has a total coliform positive sample following an E. coli-positive routine sample.
3. The system fails to take all required repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample.
4. The system fails to test for E. coli when any repeat sample tests positive for total coliform.

\*\*E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found E. coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we found E. coli in our water system. In addition, we were required to take 1 corrective action, and we completed 1 corrective action.

\*\*\*South Blount County Utility District met the treatment technique for turbidity with 100% of monthly samples below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

\*\*\*\*We are only required to collect one sample from a single location.

\*\*\*\*\*Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

#### \*\*\*\*\*Additional Monitoring Data

Parameter	Avg Level Detected
Iron	0.03 ppm
Alkalinity Avg	51 ppm
Hardness Avg	49 ppm
Ph Avg	7.79 ppm
Manganese	0.011 ppm

\*\*\*\*\*South Blount County Utility District's water meets all existing standards for safe water. In addition to the required testing, SBCUD tests many additional parameters. Most of the substances tested were not found in our water. This table includes the results for additional parameters that were detected.

#### **UCMR 5: Unregulated Contaminants: No unregulated contaminants were above the MRL.**

**MRL-** Minimum Reporting Level is the lowest analyte concentration that meets Data Quality Objectives that are developed based on the intended use of this method.  
*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. For additional information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.*

#### Violations for 2025

SBCUD had a content/delivery rule violation on the 2025 CCR. Specific verbiage regarding health effects for the action level exceedances for lead was not included in the contaminants data table as required when there is an action level exceedance. SBCUD has taken appropriate action to correct the violation and has added the required verbiage to the contaminants data table as a footnote to the lead results.

The service of providing quality tap water is often taken for granted when we turn on a faucet in our homes, but we can tell you from experience it is no easy task to provide this quality service. We manage one of the greatest natural resources on earth, which is essential for life. Our earth is covered in 70% water and only 1.6% is fresh water. We have a phenomenal team of people at SBCUD that are proud to provide this quality service to Blount County. We operate on the principle of proactive planning today, so we will be prepared tomorrow. As a customer, you are very important to us and a very important part of this business, and we thank you. If you have questions, problems, or a specific need related to our service, please contact our office at any time.

The commissioners of the South Blount County Utility District serve 4-year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the Blount County Mayor from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

#### **Think before you flush!**

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are over 340 take back bins located across the state in all 95 counties, to find a convenient location please visit: <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

