

**Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb**  
**Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2019**

The Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb 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.

**Source Water Information**

The Village of McComb receives its drinking water from Rader Creek; this is a surface water source. Water is pumped from the creek into two reservoirs adjacent to the water treatment plant for storage prior to treatment. Water treatment consists of coagulation, filtration, fluoridation, and disinfection. The public water system serves a population of approximately 1,700 people. The system's treatment capacity is approximately 940,000 gallons per day, but current average production is about 215,000 gallons per day.

For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens, with relatively short travel times from source to the intake. Based on the information compiled for this assessment, the McComb drinking water source protection area is susceptible to agricultural runoff, gas stations, and wastewater treatment plant sludge application on agricultural fields. Judging by the location of the closed McComb Village landfill, it appears that the leachate would not impact the water treatment plant intake. However, ground water flow does not always follow surface contours and a more detailed study of the ground water may be necessary to confirm this prediction.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. While the source water for the McComb Public Water System is considered highly susceptible to contamination, historically, the McComb Public Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards.

The Village of McComb has experienced problems with manganese, which causes discoloration of the water. They have not identified anything upstream as a potential source. The Village suspects the higher manganese levels may be a result of manganese accumulating at the bottom of the reservoir when ground water was used to supplement their water supply. Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the Village of McComb are available by contacting Northwestern Water & Sewer District at 419-354-9090.

**What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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 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 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; (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, USEPA 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.

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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganics; synthetic organics; and volatile organics during 2019. Samples were collected for a total of 88 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb drinking water.

**TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS: Northwestern Water & Sewer District - McComb**

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.23	0.77 - 1.7	No	2019	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	44.4	22 - 67.3	No	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	56	27.9 - 71.7	No	2019	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.28	0.01 - 0.28	No	2019	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	0 - 100%	No	2019	

Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.03	NA	No	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1	0.80 - 1.22	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.24	<0.10 - 1.24	No	2019	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants							
Bromo-dichloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	1.5	NA	No	2019	EPA regulations require us to monitor for these contaminants while EPA considers setting a limit on them.
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	10.9	NA	No	2019	
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	0	0.0 ppb	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
	0 out of 10 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	0	0.172 ppm	No	2017	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems	
	0 out of 10 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

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 the month of January, 2019, we failed to monitor for disinfection on January 6 and 26, 2019 when the public water system was in operation including the high service pumps and clearwell. The CT parameters were not reported for pH, temperature and required CT. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. We have taken steps to ensure that adequate monitoring is performed at all times.

### **Turbidity**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the Northwestern Water & Sewer District – McComb’s highest recorded turbidity result for 2019 was 0.28 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

### **Lead Educational Information**

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. Northwestern Water & Sewer District – McComb 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In 2019 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the Board of Trustees which meets at 7:30 am every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at the District's Operations facility located at 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, OH 43402. For more information on your drinking water contact Customer Service at 419-354-9090.

### **Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.
- Maximum Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- 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 contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Contact Time (CT) means the mathematical product of a "residual disinfectant concentration" (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding "disinfectant contact time" (T).
- Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.
- Cyanobacteria: Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- Cyanotoxin: Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as "algal toxin".
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

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