

ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

SC Water Utilities – CUC, Inc. 0750041

The annual Consumer Confidence Report for FY 2023 is enclosed. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of 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. Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) provides our water, with its source being the Savannah River; the raw water is treated at the Chelsea Water Treatment Plant. The river water travels 18 miles via open canal to the water plant located in the Chelsea area. The Chelsea Water Treatment Plant provides up to 24 million gallons per day (mgd) to residences and businesses in northern and southern Beaufort County. In addition to BJWSA testing, SC Water Utilities - CUC routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws.

For the year 2023, the average level of tritium in the Savannah River raw water was **375 pCi/L**. Tritium is a regulated constituent, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a maximum contamination level for its occurrence in water as 20,000 pCi/L.

EPA uses the Unregulated Containment Monitoring Rule (UCRM) program to collect nationally representative data for containments suspected to be present in drinking water, but do not have regulatory standards. UCRM 5 requires monitoring for 30 chemicals between 2023 and 2025. This monitoring is used by EPA to understand the frequency and level of occurrence of unregulated containments in the nation's public water systems. The purpose of monitoring for these containments is to help EPA decide whether the containments should have a standard. For more information about the UCRM 5, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can include microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, should be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a potential health risk. More information about constituents 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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological constituents are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Every year, BJWSA prepares and delivers Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) to its customers, on the quality of their water. The purpose of its report is to give you important information on your drinking water and how it meets drinking water standards. This report can be found at <https://www.bjwsa.org>.

KEY:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: Maximum Containment Level Goal.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: Maximum Contamination Level

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfection Level.

TT: Treatment Technique

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

P/A: Presence or absence of bacteria found.

ND: Not Detected.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

AL: Action Level

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCL's is based on running annual average or monthly samples

na: not applicable

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Chelsea Water Treatment Plant (Savannah River Source)

Substance	Date Tested	Typical Source	EPA MCL	EPA MCLG	Range of Removal	Level Found	Violation
Total Organic Carbons	2023	Naturally present in the environment	TT	n/a	46.7 – 98.9% removal (35-50% required)	1.57 – 2.70	No
Substance	Date Tested	Typical Source	EPA MCL		EPA MCLG	Level Found	Violation
Turbidity¹	2023	Soil Runoff	TT=1 NTU TT=95% of samples <0.30 NTU		0	0.17 NTU 100 %	No

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration system and disinfectants.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Contaminant	Detected Level	Range of Detection	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	Unit of measure	Violation Y/N	Year	Possible source
TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA	Present in less than 1% of samples taken	0.70%	Present In no more than 5% of monthly samples taken	0	P/A	N	2023	Naturally present in the environment.
FECAL COLIFORM OR E.COLI BACTERIA	0	ND	0	0	P/A	N	2023	Naturally present in the environment.
FLOURIDE	0.87 PPM	0.82-0.87	4	4	PPM	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
NITRATE	0.70 PPM	0.30 – 0.70	10	10	PPM	N	2023	Runoff from fertilized use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage erosion of natural deposits.
COPPER*	90 th %=0.063 1>AL	0.0012-0.41	AL = 1.3	1.3	PPM	N	2021	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
LEAD**	90 th %=.28 2>AL	N-180***	AL = 15	0	PPB	N	2021	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection and Disinfection By Products								
CHLORINE	2.28 PPM	1.93 – 2.43	4	4	PPM	N	2023	Water additive use to control microbes.
THM	Locational RAA:61 PPB	25.8 – 100.8	80	0	PPB	N	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HAA%	Locational RAA: 61 PPB	19.4 – 70.4	60	0	PPB	Y	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection

The 90th percentile is based on 50 samples.

*Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor. BJWSA water did not exceed the average MCL for copper, and they did not have a violation.

**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. BJWSA 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 two minutes before using water for drinking for 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 in minimize exposure is available from the Safe

Drinking Water Hotline (1-800*-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. BJWSA water did not exceed the average MCL for lead, and they did not have a violation.

***Re-sampling at the two sites where the initial sample showed a quantity above the action level of 15 ppb indicated lead levels to be below detection limit.

CUC #0750041

Substance	Date Tested	MCL G	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Of Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	6/25/21	1.3	1.3	0.067	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	062521	0	15	0.51	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits

2023 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	Units	Violation	Collect ion Date	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM	No goal for the total	80	71.0000	54.60 – 84.50	PPB	N	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5	No goal for the total	60	17.0000	0.000 – 44.200	PPB	N	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
CHLORINE	MRDL G = 4	MRDL = 4	0.20000	0.10000-0.20000	PP M	N	2023	Water additive used to control microbes

We routinely monitor various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements.

Please direct specific questions regarding SCWU’s report to Marshall Bishop (843) 987-2727 or SC Water Utilities at 843-768-0641.

Lead and Copper

EPA has set a deadline for all water systems to produce a lead service line inventory for all the water service lines in their systems. We have been working all year to create this inventory for submission to EPA by the deadline of Oct. 16, 2024. This inventory requires us to identify the material used from our tap to the house. Because homeowners own the water service lines to their homes, we do not have records of original service line material, or where lead service lines have been replaced with non-lead material, such as copper or PVC.

We identified services connected to our system before the ban on lead materials being used for plumbing purposes. We currently have 2,450 services unidentified. You can imagine how labor intensive a project like this is which is why we are asking for your help.

We created a survey QR code reflected on your monthly statements or accessible by the following link:

<https://www.swwc.com/sc/lead-and-copper-survey/>

We would appreciate each of our customers taking a couple of minutes to answer the five questions on the survey which will allow us to provide accurate information to EPA by the required deadline.