

# Consumer Confidence Report

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

LAKE SARA AREA WATER CO-OP, INC.

IL0495150

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by LAKE SARA AREA WATER CO-OP, INC. is Purchased Surface Water

For more information regarding this report contact:

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Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

| Source of 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Contaminants that may be present in source water include:<br>- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.<br><br>- 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.<br><br>- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.<br><br>- 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.<br><br>- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. | 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 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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 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. The drinking water supplier is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact <b>Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative</b> at (217) 342-9658. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a> . |

Source Water Information

| Source Water Name  | Type of Water     | Report Status | Location |                            |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------|
| CC 02-MASTER METER | FF IL0490250 TP01 | SW            | Active   | ON W EVERGREEN SE OF RIVER |

## Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by the LSAWC Office or call our water operator at (217) 342-9658. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: EFFINGHAM Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of public water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. Hence the reason for mandatory treatment of all public water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Primary sources of pollution in Illinois lakes can include agricultural runoff, land disposal (septic systems) and shoreline erosion.

## Water Quality Test Results

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Definitions:                                       | The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Avg:                                               | Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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. |
| Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:                  | 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.                                                                                                  |
| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 residual disinfectant level or 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 or MRDLG: | 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.                                                               |
| na:                                                | not applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| mrem:                                              | millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ppb:                                               | micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| ppm:                                               | milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Treatment Technique or TT:                         | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Lead and Copper**

## Definitions:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Copper Range: <50 to 219 ppb

Lead Range: <5 to 10.9 ppb

To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data: Contact Lake Sara Area Water Coop at (217) 342-9658 or Visit the office at 114 W Washington Effingham, IL 62401

CIRCLE ONE: Our Community Water Supply has / has not developed a service line material inventory.

To obtain a copy of the system's service line inventory: Contact Lake Sara Area Water Coop at (217) 342-9658 or Visit the office at 114 W Washington Effingham, IL 62401

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper          | 6/6/2024     | 1300 | 1300              | 0               | 0               | ppb   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 6/6/2024     | 0    | 15                | 0               | 0               | ppb   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |

Regulated Contaminants

| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL      | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination             |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Chloramines                                | 2025            | 2.1                    | 1.8 - 2.7                | MRDLG = 4             | MRDL = 4 | ppm   | N         | Water additive used to control microbes.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)                    | 2025            | 27                     | 16 - 29.1                | No goal for the total | 60       | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)               | 2025            | 42                     | 22 - 41.7                | No goal for the total | 80       | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

|      | Collection Date | Level Detected | Units |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |
|------|-----------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| PFBA | 2025            | 0.0055         | ppb   | Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. |  |  |  |  |

WATER QUALITY DATA:  
CITY OF EFFINGHAM PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY  
PWS ID #0490250

**Regulated Contaminants**

| Inorganic Contaminants         | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barium                         | 2025            | 0.016                  | 0.016 - 0.016            | 2    | 2   | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Fluoride                       | 2025            | 0.4                    | 0.431 - 0.431            | 4    | 4.0 | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] | 2025            | 0.36                   | 0.36 - 0.36              | 10   | 10  | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| Sodium                         | 2025            | 41                     | 41 - 41                  |      |     | ppb   | N         | Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.                                            |

**Turbidity**

|                                | Limit (Treatment Technique) | Level Detected | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Highest single measurement     | 1 NTU                       | 0.18 NTU       | N         | Soil runoff.                   |
| Lowest monthly % meeting limit | 0.3 NTU                     | 100%           | N         | Soil runoff.                   |

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

**Total Organic Carbon**

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.