

# 2023 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report for the Charter Township of Portage

## Regulation Background:

Following new federal regulations, the State of Michigan in 1998 enacted a requirement that public water suppliers must now issue an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on water systems. Therefore, this CCR is being issued to provide the Charter Township of Portage's water customers with information concerning your drinking water.

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Charter Township of Portage during the calendar year 2023. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan standards.

## Summary of the Water Sources for the Township's Water System:

The drinking water purchased by the Township comes from either the Adams Township Water Authority or the City of Houghton. Adams Township has (3) 200 foot deep wells and a 250,000 gallon storage facility/pump station in the Painesdale area. Adams Township has a Wellhead Protection Plan. The aquifer servicing Adams Township's wells is located beneath forested land. Chlorine and zinc orthophosphate are the only treatment chemicals added to it and is then pumped to the 150,000 gallon Charter Township of Portage's hydrosphere storage tank. The City of Houghton pumps it's water from the Water Treatment Plant to four tanks. The City of Houghton treats groundwater to remove high levels of iron and manganese by the addition of soda ash and potassium permanganate. A chlorine disinfectant is added before the water enters the distribution system. The City of Houghton has completed a Well Head Protection Plan also. Portage Township residents residing in the Township and the Dakota Heights area receive their water from the Adams Township Water Authority and the Township residents in Pilgrim Estates and on Woodland Road receive their water from the City of Houghton. Charter Township of Portage has many miles of water distribution mainlines that range in size from 4 inches to 16 inches in diameter that bring water to the individual service lines that range in size from ¾ inches all the way up to 4 inches and approximately 130 fire hydrants. The City of Houghton sells approximately 10,000,000 gallons of water per year to the Township. The Township's base rate for water ranges vary from \$12.00 to \$21.75 which is dependent upon the USDA - Rural Development debt service affixed to the individual system. Water charges range from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per thousand gallons utilized. All told there are about 549 water customers utilizing the water from these two sources.

The Charter Township of Portage is required to monitor our drinking water three times monthly for specific contaminants. Results of our regular monitoring are indicators of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Over the course of 2023 there was one Department of Environment, Great Lake, and Energy (EGLE) Violation notices issued to the Charter Township of Portage. That EGLE reporting Violation Notice stemmed from EGLE not receiving on time a lead and copper report for the June 1 to September 30, 2023 monitoring period. The Township was out of compliance from October 11, 2023 and returned to compliance on October 26, 2023 when the lead and copper report form was submitted to EGLE. That water quality test report indicated that the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of copper was 0.3 parts per million (ppm) which exceeded 0.0 ppm. (See statement about copper)

## General Water Educational Information (as required by the EPA):

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or EPA's Web Site at [www.epa.gov/safe/hfacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/safe/hfacts.html).

During 2023, the Certified Water Operator for Portage Township submitted monthly water samples for coli for testing. Over the course of the year no bacterial positives were identified from the samples submitted.

## General Water Educational Information (as required by the EPA):

- **Contaminants and their presence in 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 visiting the EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) website at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information-system-sdwis-federal-reporting](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information-system-sdwis-federal-reporting).

- **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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).
- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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 before treatment may include:

**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 storm water 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 and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**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.

**STATEMENT ABOUT LEAD:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Charter Township of Portage 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. Over many years of Service line maintenance by the Department of Public Works, no lead fittings or lines have ever been found. There are about 550 service lines, 350 likely do not contain lead and 200 are of unknown materials. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead fittings in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

**STATEMENT ABOUT COPPER:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

As mentioned above the Charter Township of Portage residents get their water from **two** sources – Adams Township and from the City of Houghton. Water quality monitoring test results derived from 2018 to 2023 from both those units of Government follows:

## **Monitoring Data – Part of our Water System Served by Adams Township**

### Terms and Abbreviations for Monitoring Data:

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set close to the MCLG's as possible using best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of Microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Contaminants Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risk to health. The MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements.

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter. Ug/L **NA:** Not applicable **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. Mg/L **ND:** Not detected

The following testing was done on the (3) Adams Twp. deep Wells which supply water to the Township:

**Monitoring Data – Part of our Water System Served by Adams Township**

Copper:	AL	MCLG	Your Water	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL
	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.4 ppm	0 ppm – .4 ppm	2022	0

Typical source of contaminants – Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead:	AL	MCLG	Your Water	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL
	15 ppb	0 ppb	1 ppb	0 ppb – 3 ppb	2022	0

**Note:** Adams Twp. is only required to test for Copper and Lead every three years.

**Regulated Contaminants:**

	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No
Arsenic:	10 ppb	0 ppb	6.4 ppb	N/A	2018	No

**While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic;** it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Mercury:	2 ppb	2 ppb	.81 ppb	N/A	2018	No
Nitrate:	10 ppm	10 ppm	.21 ppm	N/A	2023	No
Fluoride:	4 ppm	4 ppm	.05 ppm	N/A	2023	No
Sodium:	N/A	N/A	27 ppm	N/A	2023	No

Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes:	80 ppb	N/A	33.7 ppb	N/A	2023	No
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	N/A	0.0 ppb	N/A	2023	No
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	.44 ppm	.26 ppm – 1.2 ppm	2023	No

Typical source of contaminants – byproduct of drinking water chlorination. The Chlorine “Level Detected” was calculated using a running annual average.

Adams Twp. 2020 Violations: None

### Monitoring Data – Part of our Water System Served by the City of Houghton

The following testing was done on the (3) City Wells which supply water to the Township:

Inorganic Contaminants  
Subject to Action  
Levels (AL)

Copper:	AI	MCLG	Houghton Water	Range of Results	Year Sampled	# of Samples Above AL
	1.3 ppm	0 ppm	1.0	0 – 1.1	07-26-2023	0

Typical sources of contaminant – Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead:	AL	MCLG	Houghton Water	Range of Results	Year Sampled	# of Samples Above AL
	15 ppb	0 ppb	9 ppb	0 - 25	07-26-2023	1

Typical sources of contaminant – Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits.

### Regulated Contaminants:

	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCL or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant.
Arsenic:	10 ppb	0	ND	NA	9-3-2019	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Mercury:	2 ppb	2	ND	NA	9-3-2019	No	Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate:	10ppb	10	ND	NA	9-18-2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, Sewage, Erosion of Natural deposits.

**Regulated Contaminants:**

	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCL or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant.
Fluoride:	4 ppb	4 ppm	ND	NA	9-18-2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
Sodium	NA	NA	30	NA	9-18-2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	NA	47 ppb	NA	9-12-2023	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	NA	7 ppb	NA	9-12-2023	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	.52 ppm	NA	Monthly	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	NA	9-3-2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Coliform or % of Positive TT samples/month	9223 B	0	0	NA	Monthly	No	Naturally present in the environment.
E. coli in the Distribution System(positive Samples)	See E. coli note below	0	0	NA	Monthly	No	Human and animal waste.
Fecal Indicator – E. coli at the Source (positive Samples)	9223 B	NA	0	NA	Monthly	No	Human and animal waste.

*E. coli* MCL violation occurs if; (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. Coli*-Positive, or (2) the supply fails to take all required repeat samples following *E. coli*- positive routine sample, or (3) the supply fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**

**Regulated Contaminants:**

	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCL or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant.
Hexafluoro – propylene Oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA)	370ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process.
Perfluoro – butane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	420 ppt	NA	3	NA	8-03-2023	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain - resistant treatments.
Perfluoro – hexane sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	400,000 ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from Industrial facilities.
Perfluoro – hexanoic acid (PFHxA)	400,000ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities.
Perfluoro – Nonanoic acid (PFNA)	6 ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds.
Perfluoro Octane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	16 ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	8 ppt	NA	ND	NA	8-03-2023	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain - resistant treatments.

For more information regarding additional VOC, PFAS, Dalapon, and Heliocentric samples results contact the City of Houghton at (906) 482-1700 or email [info@cityofhoughton.com](mailto:info@cityofhoughton.com).

Copies of all test results from Adams Township as well as the City of Houghton are available at the Portage Township Office or from the respective water suppliers. For more information or to receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact the office at: 906-482-4310 Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Charter Township of Portage is committed to providing the best quality drinking water and water information to our valued customers.

**Charter Township of Portage**

Bruce Petersen, Supervisor