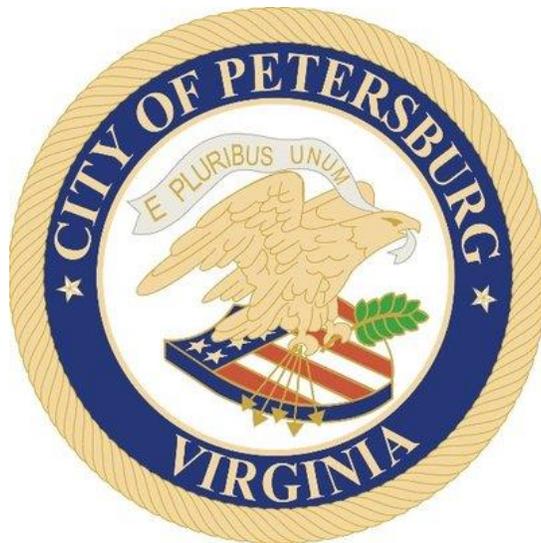


# **CITY OF PETERSBURG**

# **ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

# **2023**



**City of Petersburg**  
**Department of Public Works and Utilities**  
**1340 E. Washington Street**  
**Petersburg, VA 23803**

**Public Water System ID (PWSID): VA3730750**

## About Petersburg Department of Public Works and Utilities

### Responsibilities of the Department

The Public Utilities Department is charged with the task of providing water delivery, wastewater collection and conveyance.

### Water Services

The Public Utilities Department has the responsibility of delivering safe and clean quality drinking water to 12,000 customer accounts served by the City of Petersburg. We deliver, on average, a total of 6 million gallons of safe drinking water a day. The City is a participating member of the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA), which provides drinking water to the City of Petersburg.

### Metering and Utility Billing

The Metering Department performs monthly reads and rereads of water usage and repairs City water meters including meter leaks and malfunctions. The Utility Billing Department performs monthly reads of water usage, reviews reads, performs quality control checks, completes edits and adjustments, and prints/mails utility bills.

### Distribution & Collection Systems

The City's water and wastewater distribution and collection systems are comprised of 1,400 miles of pipe (ranging in size from 24 inches in diameter to as small as two inches in diameter pipelines), maintains three elevated and three ground water storage tanks, two water and 19 wastewater pump stations, and 1,375 fire hydrants.

We follow and exceed regulations and standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to ensure that we prevent a health crisis due to waterborne disease.

## About this Report

The City of Petersburg is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Our objective is to provide our customers with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The quality of our drinking water must meet the strict state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). If you have questions about this report, wish to receive a paper copy of this report, or have any other questions or concerns related to your drinking water, please contact the Public Works and Utilities Engineer, at 804-300-1087 or [peggers@petersburg-va.org](mailto:peggers@petersburg-va.org). This report is based on data collected and reported to VDH in 2023, unless otherwise noted. As indicated by this report, the City of Petersburg met, or surpassed drinking water standards established by VDH and the EPA.

### Why we report on Water Quality?

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act requires water utilities to provide consumers with a yearly report on the source and quality of water they drink.

The water quality report is a snapshot of the city's drinking water quality over the past year. Included is information about your water, what it contains and how it compares with standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Health. This report is being provided to comply with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. Landlords, businesses and other property owners are encouraged to share this drinking water quality report with tenants.

We are proud to report that during 2023 we were in 100% compliance with all federal and state Safe Drinking Water Act MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels). The table lists all the substances that were detected in our drinking water during 2023. The presence of these substances in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted data presented in this table is from testing performed January 1 through December 31, 2023.

### How can I get involved?

City Ordinances and Code Revisions related to utilities are handled by the City Council. The City Council typically meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, except for August and during the winter holidays. A detailed schedule of meetings and the associated agendas may be found on the City's website. Information for the City's wholesale water supplier, Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) may be found at [www.ARWAVA.org](http://www.ARWAVA.org).

### Do I need 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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Where does my water come from?

The water provided to you by the City of Petersburg is wholly surface water (no groundwater), purchased from the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA). ARWA obtains source water from Lake Chesdin, a man-made reservoir formed by damming the Appomattox River at the George F. Brasfield Dam in Chesterfield County. Within the watershed there are numerous animal feedlots and farms, but none discharge substantial contaminants into Lake Chesdin. The nearest upstream wastewater treatment plant is the Farmville Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is located more than 40 miles upstream and does not warrant concern for pollution.

### Source water assessment and its availability

The Virginia Dept. of Health updated a source water assessment of the ARWA's system during 2019. Lake Chesdin (Appomattox River) was determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using criteria developed by the State in its EPA-approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years from date of assessment. The report is available by contacting Robert B. Wilson, P.E., ARWA at (804)-590-1145.

### Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. The presence of substances does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about substances and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426- 4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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 prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal, or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

## Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease.

Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

The source water supplying Petersburg's potable water distribution system was tested for cryptosporidium between 2015 and 2017. This testing was in compliance with the requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Treatment Rule, or LT2. Test results showed that the City's water source had a maximum reading of 0.19 oocysts/L with a maximum 12 month average of 0.039 oocysts/L. The levels detected were below the LT2 designated limit of 0.075 oocyst per liter. No additional treatment was needed based on the results, as dictated by LT2.

## Additional Information for Lead

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. City of Petersburg 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Data Tables

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

PETERSBURG DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RESULTS								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chloramine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (mg/L)	4	4	2.6	1.0	4.1	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	0.8	1	0.09	ND	0.159	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	20	ND	26	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	26	17	27	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system	0	*	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.157	0	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3.49	0	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

\*Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.

ARWA TREATMENT PLANT RESULTS (Entry Point)

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine Dioxide (as Clo <sub>2</sub> ) (ppb)	800	800	<100	<100	100	2023	No	Daily at plant. Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT=1 NTU Max, TT≤0.3 NTU 95% of readings	Average 0.041 100.00%	NA	0.089 100.00%	2023	No	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (Removal Ratio)	NA	TT=RAA removal ratio minimum	1.37 Average	1.24	1.46	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/ L)	0	15	<0.39	NA	NA	10/26/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	1.9	NA	NA	10/26/2020	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.2	NA	NA	10/26/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.023	NA	NA	10/30/2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.69	<0.1	1.04	2023 3X Daily	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.09	NA	NA	10/30/2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants (Detected at AWRA Treatment Plant in 2023)

Contaminants	Your Water	Explanation and Comment
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	3.1 ppb	Sample Date 10/30/2023
Chloroform (ppb)	18 ppb	Sample Date 10/30/2023
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	<0.50 ppb	Sample Date 10/30/2023
MTBE (ppb)	<5.0 ppb	Sample Date 10/30/2023
Sulfate (ppm)	23.3 ppm	Sample Date 10/30/2023
Sodium (ppm)	17.7 ppm	Sample Date 10/30/2023

Definitions and Units

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definitions
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
mg/L	mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. 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
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definitions
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

### Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond • Watering trough

If you have questions or concerns regarding the City's Backflow Prevention Program, you can contact Hall Wingfield, Utility Program Coordinator, at [hwingfield@petersburg-va.org](mailto:hwingfield@petersburg-va.org) or at 804-835-0928.

### Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways: Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.

- Pick up after your pets.
- Don't litter.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### Additional Information

For more general information about drinking water:

- Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Web site at: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)
- Virginia Department of Health (Drinking Water) at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/>
- Petersburg Utilities at: <https://www.petersburgva.gov/300/Public-Utilities>

## Did You Know?



The City of Petersburg's Water System dates to 1856 (officially) — that's 168 Years!

Today, Public Utilities maintains over 225 miles of public water lines, 6 water storage tanks, 1,500 fire hydrants, 2 water pump stations, 200 miles of public sewer line, and 18 sewer pump stations.

The City receives finished water from the Appomattox River Water Authority and conveys wastewater to the South Central Wastewater Authority.

On any given day, nearly 5 million gallons of drinking water move through the City's water system to serve approximately 32,000 customers. That's enough water to fill a football field 15' deep.

## How to Contact Us:

General water and wastewater inquiries or concerns, including suspected breaks or leaks:

-During regular business hours, contact Utility Operations at: 804-733-2407

-After-hours utility emergencies, contact the Police Non-emergency line at: 804-732-4222

Questions about bills, payments, starting service, or stopping service:

-Contact the office of Billing & Collections: 804-733-2349

General Public Works inquires or concerns: 804-733-2355

City Main Phone Number: 804-733-2300

**Website:** [www.Petersburg-va.org](http://www.Petersburg-va.org) **Twitter:** @PetersburgV **Instagram:** [petersburg\\_va](https://www.instagram.com/petersburg_va)

## Water TIPS

- If you experience a sewer odor from your sink when you use the faucet, it's usually coming from a dry P-Trap and not the actual water coming out of the faucet. The P-Trap — named for its shape — provides a water seal that blocks sewer gas from coming back into the building. If the trap dries out, sewer gas can enter the house. If you have a seldom-used drain, try running the water every so often to keep the vapor seal in place.
- In the colder months, it's not uncommon to experience cloudy water. This is usually due to air that has dissolved into the water under pressure and is released once it exits the pressurized water and plumbing systems. The cloudiness should dissipate within 10-15 seconds.
- If you have any questions — contact us, we'd be happy to help!

Questions, comments, or suggestions about this report, or for more information, please contact:

Public Works and Utilities Engineer

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804-300-1087

*Petersburg*  
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