

# 2023 Water Quality Report for Yankee Springs Township

This report covers the drinking water quality for Yankee Springs Township for the 2023 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2023. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from two groundwater wells, each over 145 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry, and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is low.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by our wellhead protection program. If you would like to know more about the report, please visit [gunlakesewer.org](http://gunlakesewer.org).

**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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**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. U.S. EPA/Center for Disease Control 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 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 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 and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

**Information about 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. Yankee Springs Township 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Monitoring and Reporting to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Requirements:** The State of Michigan and the U.S. EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We did not meet all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2023.

We will update this report annually and keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year as they happen. Copies are available at the Yankee Springs Township Hall and at [gunlakesewer.org](http://gunlakesewer.org).

With installation of the new arsenic/iron removal equipment, October 2007, Yankee Springs Township Water System's arsenic levels are under the EPA's required MCL (maximum contaminant level) of 10 ppb (4.5ppb). The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic. Some people who consume water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of cancer.

If you have any questions or concerns with this report or the Yankee Springs Township Water Utility, please contact Mr. Larry Knowles of the Gun Lake Area Sewer & Water Authority at (269) 672-5588 or the Yankee Springs Township Supervisor, Mr. Rob Heethuis, at (269) 795-9091. GLASWA holds monthly Authority Board Meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm and Yankee Springs Township holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. We encourage public interest in decisions affecting our Drinking Water System and want our customers to be well informed. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2022 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2022. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### *Terms and abbreviations used below:*

- 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 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 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 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.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- N/A: Not applicable
- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	3.4 ppb	1.0 ppb	Quarterly Average	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	<0.05 ppm	<0.05 ppm	9/06/23	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.57 ppm	0.10 ppm	9/06/23	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	N/A	N/A	30000	2000	9/25/23	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	<2.0 ppb	2.0 ppb	9/20/23	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	<1.0 ppb	1.0 ppb	9/20/23	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	4	4	.511 ppm	.02-1.3 ppm	Average 2023	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	<2.57	NA	9/06/23	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	1.423	1.114	9/21/22	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform (total number or % of positive samples/month)	TT	N/A	0	N/A	Monthly	NO	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli in the distribution system (positive samples)	See E. coli note <sup>3</sup>	0	0	N/A	Monthly	NO	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal Indicator – E. coli at the source (positive samples)	TT	N/A	0	N/A	Monthly	NO	Human and animal fecal waste
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to Action Levels (AL)	Action Level	MCLG	Your Water <sup>4</sup>	Range of Results	N/A	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2.0 ppb	>0.1 – 2 ppb	07/08/21	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1 ppm	0.0 - 0.1 ppm	07/08/21	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

<sup>2</sup> The chlorine “Level Detected” was calculated using a running annual average.

<sup>3</sup> *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*.

<sup>4</sup> Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	N/D	1.8	2022	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Yankee Springs Township

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 our drinking water meets health standards. During the monitoring period of January 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023, we did not complete all monitoring for synthetic organic chemicals<sup>1</sup> (SOCs) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. However, this violation does not pose a threat to your supply's water.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date we collected follow-up samples.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	Date samples were collected
Toxaphene <sup>5</sup>	1 sample per 3 years	0	01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023	10/31/2023
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB)	1 sample per 3 years	0	01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023	10/31/2023
Chlordane	1 sample per 3 years	0	01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023	10/31/2023

What happened? What is being done? We sampled SOCs on September 6, 2023, but inadvertently missed testing for toxaphene, PCBs, and chlordane. We collected the required follow-up samples on October 31, 2023 which met the drinking water standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Our staff is making every effort to assure this does not happen again.

For more information, please contact Larry Knowles at (269) 672-5588.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Yankee Springs Township.

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<sup>1</sup> SOCs are tested by collecting one sample and testing that sample for all the SOCs. SOCs include the contaminants within the carbamates, pesticides, and herbicides groups.