Northeast Knox Utility District

**NORTHEAST KNOX UTILITY DISTRICT**

**2026 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Northeast Knox Utility District is pleased to present to its' customers this year's Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform the customer about the quality water and services Northeast Knox Utility District delivers to the customer everyday, and is prepared in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Resources. Northeast Knox Utility District's goal is to provide the customer a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The utility is again proud of the fact that it has met state and federal drinking water standards.

Northeast Knox Utility District will be making improvements to the distribution system in the near future to better serve you.

Northeast Knox Utility District is committed to ensuring the quality of its' customers water and would like its' customers to be informed about their water quality. We ask our customers to please make sure a cut-off valve is installed on your line. We also ask that you use care not to damage the automated meter and equipment.

If you have any questions concerning this report please call Jamie Smith at 865-687-5345 or Randy Effler at 865-525-0782. Northeast Knox Utility District's Board of Commissioners meetings are held at its' office at 7214 Washington Pike on the 4th Monday of each month, starting at 8:30AM. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of Northeast Knox Utility District serve four year terms.

Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners of Northeast Knox Utility District are filled by the certification of a list of three nominees to fill the vacancy with the Knox County Mayor. The Knox County Mayor appoints one of these three nominees to fill the vacancy. If the Knox County Mayor does not appoint one of the nominees from the Board's list of three nominees, the Knox County Mayor enters an order rejecting the three nominees. The Board of Commissioners continue to certify additional lists of three nominees to the Knox County Mayor until an appointment is made from such additional lists. A vacancy will exist in October 2026 on the District's Board of Commissioners due to the expiration of the term of a current member of the Board. The Board plans to certify a list of three nominees to the Knox County Mayor to fill this vacancy at it's August 2026 meeting. A customer may submit a name for consideration by the Board for the list of nominees. To be considered the name must be mailed to the District's General Manager no later than one week before the August 2026 Board meeting. Qualifications established by the Board for nominees are available upon request. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservations pursuant to Section 7-82-707(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

This annual drinking water quality report and notice is being distributed 3/3/2026 by Northeast Knox Utility District, State Water System # TN0000515.

Gregg Morgan
General Manager

Northeast Knox Utility District's water treatment plant is capable of producing 6,912,000 gallons per day for its' customers in Northeast Knox County and also provides water to Luttrell-Blaine-Corryton Utility District and to the City of Maynardville, TN. The plant draws its water from the Holston River and uses conventional treatment techniques.

**What is the source of my water?**

Your water, which is surface water, comes from the Holston River. Our goal is to protect the water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water source serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Northeast Knox Utility District Water System source is rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or you can call TDEC EAC at 1-888-891-8332 or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. The presence of contaminates does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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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-occuring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, can be picked up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural lifestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occuring of 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.
- 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 and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by the 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. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The State and EPA require Northeast Knox Utility District to test and report on its water on a regular basis to ensure safety. Northeast Knox Utility District has met all of these requirements and would like the customer to know we observe all the rules and regulations set forth by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the EPA. Northeast Knox Utility District scored a 99.0 on its most recent sanitary survey by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in June of 2024.

Northeast Knox Utility District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. The utility asks that all its' customers help to protect the water sources, which are the heart of the community, the way of life, and the children's future.

The following Water Quality Data table shows the results of Northeast Knox Utility District's monitoring for the period of January 1, thru December 31, 2025

. In the table the customer will find many terms and abbreviations. To help better understand these terms Northeast Knox Utility District has provided the following definitions.

**Turbidity** - Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly.

**(nd) - non-detects** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**(ppm)** - parts per million or (mg/1) milligrams per liter - one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a single penny in $10,000.

**(ppb)** - parts per billion or micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.

**(pCi/l)** - picocuries per liter - A measure of radioactivity in water.

**(mrem/yr)** - millirems per year - a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**(MFL)** - million fibers per liter - A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are no longer than 10 micrometers.

**(NTU)** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity of 5NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**(AL)** - Action Level - The concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.

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

**(MCL)** - Maximum Contaminant Level – or the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**(MRDLG)** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, or 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)** – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, or the level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

**(BDL)** - Below Detectable Limit
**(P/A)** - Presence or Absence of a Contaminant
**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.
Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Northeast Knox Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Northeast Knox Utility District Contact Randy Effler at 865-687-5345 Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at : https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects.
Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. Copper health effects language: 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.
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*Unless otherwise noted the data presented in this table is from sampling performed during the 2025 calendar year*

About the data: Northeast Knox Utility District monitors for some contaminants less than once per year, and for those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

Northeast Knox Utility District monitored regulated and unregulated volatile organic chemicals four separate quarters throughout the calendar year 2025. All results are within compliance level or below detectable levels.

Northeast Knox Utility District sampled four Synthetic Organic Compounds in 2020 including Atrazine, Simazine, Picloram, and 2,4-D. All were found to be below detectible limits.

25 Inorganics sampled in 2020 were within compliance levels or below detectable limits, (See footnote number 6).

*All sample records, including regulated, unregulated, special unregulated chemical monitoring, special chemical monitoring, and any other water quality reports, are available for viewing during normal business hours with an appointment.*

**Water Quality Data Table**

| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | Range of Detection | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination | Date of Sample |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turbidity [1] | N | 0.050 Annual Average | ntu | 0.020 to 0.150 | n/a | TT | Soil runoff | Max. Sample 07/15/2025 |
| Copper [2] | N | 90 th perc. 0.0976 | ppm | 0.0106 to 0.0976 | 1.3 | AL= 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives | 07/10/2023 thru 08/18/2023 |
| Sodium | N | 10.8 | ppm | 10.8 | n/a | none | Naturally present in the environment | 2/18/2025 |
| Fluoride | N | 0.56 Annual Average | ppm | 0.51 to 0.60 | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| Lead [2] | N | 1.00 90th perc. | ppb | BDL to 7.73 | 0 | AL= 15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | 07/10/2023 thru 08/18/2023 |
| THAA (total Haloacetic acids) [5] | N | 29.2 Highest LRAA | ppb | 13.9 to 52.6 | n/a | 60 | By-product of drinking water chlorination | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| TTHM (Total trihalo-methanes | N | 65.9 Highest LRAA | ppb | 30.1 to 103.0 | n/a | 80 | By product of drinking water chlorination | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| Total Organic Carbon [3] | N | 1.18 Annual Average | ppm | 32.5 % reduction, 25%reqd. | n/a | TT | Decaying organic material | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| Nitrate | N | 0.505 | ppm | 0.505 | 10 | 10 | Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from fertilizer, septic runoff | 2/18/25 |
| Chlorine | N | 1.38 Annual Average | ppm | 0.60 to 2.4 | MRDLG 4 | MRDL 4 | Used as disinfectant in water treatment | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| Arsenic [4,6] | N | <1.0 | ppb | <1.0 | n/a | 10 | Run off from orchards, glass and electronics production waste, erosion of natural deposits | 03/18/2020 |
| Total Coliform Bacteria 7 | N | 0 | p/a | 0 -0 | 0 | n/a | Naturally Present in the Environment | 01/01/25 thru 12/31/25 |
| Sulfate 6 | N | 11.1 | ppm | 11.1 | n/a | 250 | Naturally present in the environment | 03/18/2020 |

**1- 1680** Turbidity samples were analyzed in 2025 with an annual average of 0.050 NTU, Northeast Knox Utility met the treatment technique for turbidity with 100% of our samples below the turbidity limit of 0.30 NTU.
**2-** Lead and Copper samples only required every 3 years. 30 samples from various points in the distribution system. 0 sites of 30 exceeded Action level. *"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. Northeast Knox Utility District 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"*
**3-** Northeast Knox Utility District met the treatment technique requirements for TOC in Calendar year 2025.
**4-** Laboratory detection limit 1.0 ppb.
**5-** *Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.* LRAA= Locational Running Annual Average.
**6-** Sulfate and Arsenic are among 25 inorganic chemicals sampled in 2020.
**7-** 360 bacteria samples were taken in the distribution system in 2025 with 0 Total Coliform MCL violations. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system.

*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 Northeast Knox UD.

State Water System ID#: TN0000515

Date distributed: 3/3/2026