Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025
Cove Creek – Scott County PSA
PWSID # 1169150

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2025 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). If you want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Scott County Public Service Authority, Mike Dishman, Executive Director, 156 Legion Street, Weber City, VA 24290; 276-386-3401

The time and location of regularly scheduled PSA board meetings are as follows:

The Scott County PSA Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Scott County administrative offices located on the 2nd floor of the Scott County Community Services Building at 190 Beech Street, Gate City, Virginia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can naturally occur or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining , or farming. (3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (4) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. (5) 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 which 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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/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).

SOURCES OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The sources of your drinking water are Washington County Service Authority (WCSA) and City of Bristol, Virginia, as described below:

- Middle Fork of the Holston River
- Mill Creek Spring, Cole Spring and Widener Spring
- Reservation Spring
- South Holston Lake

Treatment is by chemical and physical means including filtration to remove particulate matter, chlorination for disinfection, and fluoridation for the promotion of dental health.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A source water assessment of our system was conducted in 2001 and 2002 by the Virginia Department of Health, the Washington County Service Authority and a private consulting agency. The Reservation Spring, Widener Spring, Jones Spring, Middle Fork of the Holston River and the South Holston Lake were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. Additional information concerning this report may be obtained by calling the Washington County Service Authority at the number listed above.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

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

Level 1 assessment - 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 very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* PMCL 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 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 Goal or MRDLG – the level of 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.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of filtration treatment processes.

Non-detects (ND) - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Not Applicable (N.A.) – there is not a MCLG or a MCL for this particular contaminant.

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

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Cove Creek Water System

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Violation?	Range	Date of Sample	Typical Sources of Contamination
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N.A.	80	52	No	35 - 71	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N.A.	60	23	No	4 - 31	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.455	No	N/D – 0.455	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.036	No	0.028 – 0.036	2025	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5	0.5	No	0.1 – 0.5	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	0.5	No	ND – 0.5	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.55	No	0.01 – 1.4	2025	Water additives to control microbes
Turbidity (NTU)	N.A.	TT, 1 NTU max	0.69	No	0.01 – 0.69	2025	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.
		TT,<0.3 NTU 95% of time	100 %	No	N.A.		
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	N.A.	TT, MET when > or = 1	1.1	No	1.0 – 1.39	2025	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.46	No	ND – 0.46	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Range	Date of Sample	Number of Sample Sites Exceeding Action Level	Violation?	Typical sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	0	15	N/D	ND	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.009	ND – 0.009	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Cove Creek Water System

(Continued)

Unregulated Constituents

Monitoring Results for Sodium (Unregulated-No Limits Designated)			
Level Detected (unit)	Sample Date	Typical Source	Guidance
13.2 (mg/L) Range 1.43 – 13.2	2025	Naturally Occuring; Addition of treatment chemicals/processes	For individuals on a very low sodium diet (500 mg/day), EPA recommends that drinking-water sodium not exceed 20 mg/L. Should you have health concerns, contact your health care provider.

The water quality results in the above tables are from testing done in 2020 and 2025. However, the state allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For instance, MCLs are based on a person drinking 2 liters of the same water every day for 70 years. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

There were no violations requiring public notice in 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the materials used in the plumbing of homes and other buildings. 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 plumbing and taking steps to reduce your risk. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact us. 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*.

Service Line Inventory

We completed a Lead Service Line Inventory required by the Commonwealth and submitted the results to VDH. We determined that there are 0 Galvanized Service Lines Requiring Replacement and 1 Service Line of Unknown Materials. The full inventory is available upon request. The US EPA and VDH only required doing an inventory of the service lines, and not the plumbing inside houses/buildings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD (continued)

Health Effects Information

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to 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.

General Information

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content and is considered corrosive to metal pipes and fixtures. (Fortunately, your water is not considered corrosive because of its low acidity and moderately high alkalinity/mineral content.) Common sources of lead in drinking water are pipes, faucets, and fixtures containing lead or plumbed with lead solder. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, we recommend taking the following simple steps:

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet screens (also known as an aerator) because sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect there. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your pipes by running the tap 10-30 seconds (or longer if you have a service line or plumbing made of lead or old galvanized piping), taking a shower, or doing laundry or dishes.
- **Install a filter.** Filters certified by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to reduce lead are effective in reducing lead in drinking water.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Ordinary activities involving a consumer's water supply, like watering the lawn or flowers, filling a swimming pool, or mixing a pesticide in a tank or bucket, can create a dangerous situation known as a ***cross-connection***. Scott County PSA would like our customers to be aware of the risks associated with these activities. An ordinary garden hose, when used improperly, can contaminate a water supply if the end of the hose is submerged in any liquid or attached to certain devices used to spray herbicides or insecticides. A cross-connection occurs whenever a possible source of contamination is directly linked to our public water system. Wherever a cross-connection exists, there is a risk of **backflow** occurring where the contaminated liquid flows backward into the public water system or the consumer's potable water supply piping. For instance, if the end of the water hose is connected to a chemical container, swimming pool, or other contaminant, then the substance can be siphoned back into the water system. Plumbing devices are available to help prevent this from happening, but the best solution is to always be careful about how you use your water hose. Please help provide a safe supply of water to all of our customers by remembering to never place a water hose in anything that is not safe to drink. For more information on cross- connections and how to protect against them, call our office at 276-386-3401.