

# 2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

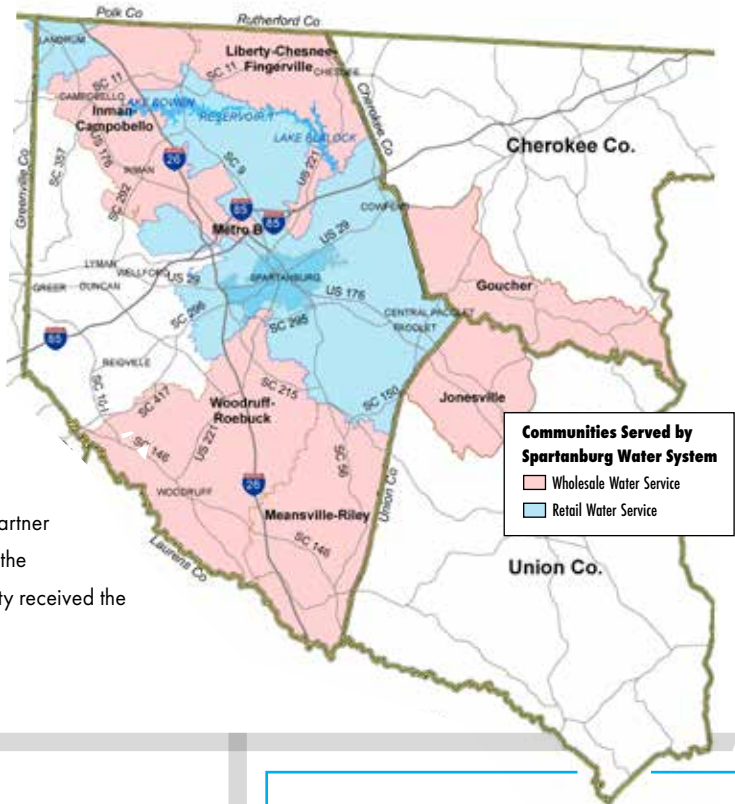


SPARTANBURG WATER ID#4210001

## Spartanburg Water is pleased to present you with our 2023 Water Quality Report.

In order to protect you, our valued customer, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have established strict standards for drinking water. These standards protect consumers from waterborne disease organisms and harmful chemicals. On an annual basis, the EPA requires all public water systems to provide customers with information about water quality and compliance with environmental standards through Water Quality Reports.

Spartanburg Water is committed to exceptional water quality. We continue to partner with the EPA and American Water Works Association (AWWA) as a member of the Partnership for Safe Water. In 2023, R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Facility received the AWWA Phase III Directors Award for Water Treatment for the twenty-third year.



## Source Water Assessment

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 required DHEC to perform a source water assessment for all drinking water supplies in South Carolina. This assessment consists of the following key elements: determining the geographic boundaries for each water supply, preparing a list of potential contamination sources within each area and assessing the potential for pollutants to enter the water supply. DHEC has completed the source water assessment for our water system. Potential contaminants identified in the report include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum products, metals, nitrates, pesticides/herbicides, and pathogens. Potential sources of these contaminants include gas stations, dry cleaners, agricultural areas, automobile repair shops, septic systems, and facilities where potential contaminants are used or stored.

We test our drinking water for more than 150 substances. Most of the results show that contaminants are not present in our drinking water, but there are some exceptions. The tables on the following pages list all the regulated drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year, except if otherwise noted. Most samples were taken at the treatment plant at a point just before the water enters our distribution system, but trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and lead and copper compliance samples were monitored from customer taps throughout the distribution system. State and federal regulations do not require us to examine the water for all contaminants during each calendar year. The information provided in these tables represents the most recent samples taken in accordance with the applicable regulations.

For more information about the state's source water assessment program or watersheds, visit [www.scdhec.gov/environment/your-water-coast/source-water-protection](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/your-water-coast/source-water-protection). Please contact Bryan Bates at 864-580-5691 or [bbates@spartanburgwater.org](mailto:bbates@spartanburgwater.org) for more information about our source water assessment.

## Where Does Our Water Come from?

Spartanburg Water is supplied from three man-made Lakes: Lake William C. Bowen, Municipal Reservoir #1, and Lake H. Taylor Blalock.

Lake Bowen, formed by the South Pacolet River and its tributaries, flows into Municipal Reservoir #1. The entire watershed for these lakes lies in Spartanburg and Eastern Greenville Counties. The R.B. Simms Water Treatment Facility treats the water from these lakes.

The North Pacolet River and its tributaries combine with the Lake Bowen/Reservoir #1 system to form Lake Blalock. The watershed for this lake lies in South Carolina and North Carolina. The Myles W. Whitlock, Jr. Water Treatment Facility treats the water from Lake Blalock, when in operation.

# What's in Our Water?

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. These substances are called "contaminants."

## CONTAMINANTS THAT CAN BE PRESENT IN 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 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, urban storm runoff and residential use;
- **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;

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

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 calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The EPA and DHEC prescribe strict regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants allowed in tap water to ensure that it is safe to drink. The FDA establishes limit regulations for contaminants present in bottled water and also must provide protection for the public health.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Certain individuals can be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer and who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplant, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS MEASURED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance	MRDLG MCLG	MRDL MCL	Highest Level Found	Range of Levels Found	Date of Sample	Was MRDL or MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.70 ppm	.47 – 1.70	2023	No	Added for disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	0	80 ppb*	LRAA = 39 ppb	11 – 56	2023	No	By-product of disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids	0	60 ppb*	LRAA = 30 ppb	12 – 46	2023	No	By-product of disinfection

\* Compliance for Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are based on Locational Running Annual Averages (LRAA), not individual sample values. The calculated LRAA may include data from 2022 not reported on this table while range of levels found represents samples collected during 2023 only.

## COLIFORM BACTERIA MEASURED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Contaminant	MCLG	TT	Result	Date of Sample	Was TT exceeded?	Typical Source
Total Coliform	N/A	TT*	No positive E. coli results	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment



### Units of Measurement

- **ppm (Parts per Million)**: This is the same as milligrams per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten thousand dollars.
- **ppb (Parts per Billion)**: This is the same as micrograms per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten million dollars.
- **ppt (Parts Per Trillion)**: This is the same as nanograms per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten billion dollars.
- **SU (Standard Units)**: Unit of measure to indicate how acidic or basic water is on the pH scale.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)**: Units of measure to indicate water clarity.

### On April 1, 2016 SCDHEC required Public Water Systems to implement the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).

\*Under RTCR a Treatment Technique (TT\*) violation is defined as any of the following:

- E. Coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample
- Total coliform-positive repeat sample following an E. coli routine sample
- Failure to take all required repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample
- Failure to test for E. coli when any repeat sample tests positive for total coliform

# Lead and Copper

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. Spartanburg Water 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may want to consider having 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water).



## LEAD AND COPPER MEASURED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (REQUIRED EVERY 3 YEARS)

Contaminant	Action Level (90%)	SWS 2022 (90%)	Number over Action Level	Typical Source
Copper	1.3 ppm	0.158 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	15 ppb	ND	0	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN SWS FINISHED DRINKING WATER/DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (SAMPLES TAKEN AT THE R.B. SIMMS TREATMENT PLANT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range of Levels Found	Date of Sample	Was MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Fluoride *	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.67 ppm	NA*	2023	No	Added to prevent tooth decay
Turbidity	NA	TT = 1 NTU	0.18 NTU	0.00 – 0.18	2023	No	Soil runoff
		TT = percentage of samples equal to or below 0.3 NTU	100%	NA			
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.04 ppm	NA	2023	No	Naturally occurring and fertilizer runoff
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT = removal ratio of 1 or greater	Removal Ratio Avg. = 1.10	1.00 – 1.29	2023	No	Naturally occurring

\*Only fluoride results from samples taken by DHEC are given in the table. Average Fluoride level detected by SWS's certified laboratory during 2023 was 0.71 ppm for R.B. Simms Treatment Plant.

## SUBSTANCES MONITORED FOR THE SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (SAMPLES TAKEN AT THE R.B. SIMMS TREATMENT PLANT)

Substance	MCLG	Secondary MCL	Average Level Found	Range of Levels Found	Date of Sample	Typical Source
Aluminum	No MCLG	200 ppb	16 ppb	10 – 228	2023	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No MCLG	250 ppm	8 ppm	7 – 9	2023	Naturally occurring
Copper	No MCLG	1000 ppb	ND	ND	2023	Naturally occurring
Manganese	No MCLG	50 ppb	ND	ND-8	2023	Naturally occurring
pH	No MCLG	6.5 - 8.5 SU	7.1 SU	6.9 – 7.4	2023	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	No MCLG	250 ppm	14 ppm	13 – 15	2023	Naturally occurring
Total Dissolved Solids	No MCLG	500 ppm	48 ppm	1 – 68	2023	Naturally occurring
Zinc	No MCLG	5000 ppb	22 ppb	8 – 29	2023	Added for corrosion control

# Unregulated Contaminants

This year you may have noticed that no Unregulated Contaminants are included in a table. Unregulated Contaminants are those that do not have a drinking water standard set by EPA. EPA is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to identify a list of potential contaminants every five years, make a rule for water systems to test for them, and then make a decision whether regulations are necessary. Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5), which is the latest mandated testing rule for selected contaminants, SCDHEC began Spartanburg Water's testing in 2023. While 29 different sample types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium were collected to be analyzed, all 30 samples came in below the minimum reporting limit. For this reason, there is nothing to report at this time.

Unregulated Inorganic Substances were also monitored in 2023, and that data is included in a table below. If you have any questions about these results, or are interested in the full list of contaminants that were monitored, please contact Bryan Bates at (864) 580-5691 or [bbates@spartanburgwater.org](mailto:bbates@spartanburgwater.org).



## UNREGULATED INORGANIC SUBSTANCES MONITORED

Substance	MCLG	Secondary MCL	Level Found	Range of Levels Found	Date of Sample	Was MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Sodium	NA	NA	7.7 ppm	NA	2023	No	Naturally occurring

In 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) formally released new regulatory guidance setting limits for six types of manufactured Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals that may be found in some drinking water. The new limits are set at 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for some of the most common PFAS categories found in parts of the US. In addition, the US EPA has set limits of 10 ppt for three other PFAS contaminant categories that may be found in some drinking water.

Since 2020, Spartanburg Water has been periodically testing the source and finished water at our two, active water treatment plants, R.B. Simms and Landrum Drinking Water Facilities, as well as our third source water reservoir, Lake Blalock. This testing has indicated no level of PFAS has been found that exceeds the US EPA guidance.

In addition to Spartanburg Water testing, sampling conducted by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) has also indicated that none of these compounds were present. Because of Spartanburg Water's extensive watershed protection, monitoring, and compliance efforts, our source water, as well as the drinking water provided to our customers already exceeds the new standards for excellent water quality. We will continue to monitor for these substances on a routine basis.

## WATER QUALITY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a disinfectant in drinking water 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 contamination.
- LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average concentration at a particular location for four consecutive quarters.
- NA (Not Applicable):** Does not apply.
- ND (Not Detected):** Not detected or below detection limits.
- TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**OUR MISSION** is to provide quality water and wastewater services to our region in a reliable manner.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Please contact the Spartanburg Water Customer Service Department at 864-582-6375 if you have any questions about Spartanburg Water or this report. Learn more about Spartanburg Water by visiting our website at [www.spartanburgwater.org](http://www.spartanburgwater.org).

## COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, meet regularly throughout the year. The meetings are held at: Spartanburg Water Main Office, 200 Commerce Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306. For more information and a meeting schedule, please contact Trish Heatherington at 864-580-5643.

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER

**EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline** 1-800-426-4791

[www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline)

**National Sanitation Foundation** 1-800-673-6275

[www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/topic/consumer-resources/drinking-water](http://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/topic/consumer-resources/drinking-water)

**SCDHEC**

[www.scdhec.gov/environment/your-home/drinking-water](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/your-home/drinking-water)

## ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION ACERCA DEL AGUA POTABLE.

Si usted desea recibir una copia de este informe en idioma español, comuníquese con Atención al Cliente at 1-864-582-6375.

**SPARTANBURG WATER**

P.O. Box 251, Spartanburg, SC 29304

