



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Calendar Year 2023

## Altamont Water Treatment Plant

**This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This report includes drinking water facts, information on violations (if applicable), and contaminants detected in your drinking water supply during calendar year 2023. Each year, we will provide you a new report. If you need help understanding this report or have general questions, please contact the person listed below.**

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

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### **Sources of Drinking Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

Our source of water comes from Surface Water.

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 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 water 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 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.

### **Other Facts about Drinking 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 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 at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by 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. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Source Water Assessments

Source water protection (SWP) is a proactive approach to protecting our critical sources of public water supply and assuring that the best source of water is being utilized to serve the public. It involves implementation of pollution prevention practices to protect the water quality in a watershed or wellhead protection area serving a public water supply. Along with treatment, it establishes a multi-barrier approach to assuring clean and safe drinking water to the citizens of Illinois. The Illinois EPA has implemented a source water assessment program (SWAP) to assist with wellhead and watershed protection of public drinking water supplies.

### Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 618-483-6370. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: ALTAMONT Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of public water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. Hence the reason for mandatory treatment of all public water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Primary sources of pollution in Illinois lakes can include agricultural runoff, land disposal (septic systems) and shoreline erosion.

## 2023 Regulated Contaminants Detected

The next several tables summarize contaminants detected in your drinking water supply.

Here are a few definitions and scientific terms which will help you understand the information in the contaminant detection tables.

AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal 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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.
N/A	Not Applicable
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L) - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Lead and Copper								
	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	0.12	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead		0	15			ppb		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

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. Altamont Water Treatment Plant 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>.

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	2	0 – 3.5	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	42	22.9 – 55.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	46	44.7 - 50	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2023	0.022	0.022 – 0.022	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	0.7	0.744 – 0.744	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Manganese	2023	4	4.4 – 4.4	150	150	ppb	N	This contaminate is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	0.07	0.07 – 0.07	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2023	20	20 - 20			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

Turbidity				
Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.				
	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	43%	N	Soil Runoff
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.99	Y	Soil Runoff

Total Organic Carbon	
The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violation section.	

The following table(s) lists all violations that occurred during 2023. We included a brief summary of the actions we took following notification of the violation.

Contaminant or Program	Violation Type	Violation Duration Start Date – End date	Violation Explanation
	MONTHLY COMB FLTR EFFLUENT (IESWTR/LT1)	06/01/2023 – 06/30/2023	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
Health Effects (if applicable)	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.		
Actions we took:	Water treatment processes, training and equipment have been updated to better handle this situation in the future. An improved peristaltic chemical pump, capable of dosing higher ppm of oxidizer was installed at the water intake and an additional pump was purchased for redundancy. Potassium permanganate demand and soluble manganese lab testing equipment has been purchased. These tests have been taught to the operators and are now performed on a daily basis in addition to the 4 daily total manganese tests already in practice. The water department has purchased a more reliable destratifier system to replace the one currently in use.		

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