

HECLA WATER ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT (TEST RESULTS FROM 2025)

This report is designed to inform you about the drinking water and services we deliver every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe dependable supply of drinking water, and we would like for you to understand the efforts we make continually to improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

What are sources of contamination to drinking 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

This newsletter is distributed to Hecla Water Association consumers to provide information about their drinking water source. Direct questions or comments to patrick@heclawater.com

Hecla Water is an Equal Opportunity Provider

DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Hecla Water's primary water source is groundwater from the Ohio River Valley Aquifer System located along State Route 7, just southeast of Athalia, Ohio. The well field contains eight wells which pump over two million gallons of water each day. The treatment process includes sand filtering, fluoridation and chlorination. A water softening process was implemented in the last quarter of 2025 in order to reduce the hardness due to natural minerals found in ground water. Hecla Water has a source protection plan which is being updated to include added security measures. The Homeland Security Act protects the details of the protection plan and additional security. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water company, contact Patrick Carpenter at 740-533-0526. If you want to learn more about your water system, attend the regularly scheduled meetings held each month on the fourth Thursday at 11:30 AM at the office on State Route 141.

Hecla Water also uses the City of Ironton as a secondary source of water. The city treats surface water from the Ohio River through pre-sedimentation, up flow clarification, filtration, and chlorination. The Ironton Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1993 and provides approximately 1.74 million gallons of drinking water a day. Customers in the Coryville and Porter Gap areas are fed from the Ironton interconnection. Although less than 1% of the daily supply, Ironton serves as a supplementary and emergency connection for Hecla Water.

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is {0.3 NTU) in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported, the purchased water from the city of Ironton's highest recorded turbidity result for 2025 was 0.08 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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. The Hecla Water Association 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 drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the safe drinking water Hotline at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this, we used the following sources: historical records, parts and inventory used for installations and repairs, visual inspections, and installation as-builts.

INITIAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EVALUATION

Under the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection byproducts Rule (D/DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system with elevated disinfection byproduct concentrations. The locations selected for the IDSE may be used for compliance monitoring under Stage 2 DBPR, beginning in 2012. Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.

CONTAMINANT LEVELS

Maximum Contaminant Levels are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

SUSCEPTIBILITY ANALYSIS

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the Hecla Water Association wells is moderately susceptible to contamination. This determination was made because of the following reasons:

- The water table of the sand and gravel aquifer begins approximately 40 feet below the ground surface.
- There is approximately 15-25 feet of sandy clay overlying the sand and gravel. This may slow the migration of contaminants into the aquifer.
- Potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area.

Water quality data were evaluated using the drinking water compliance database at Ohio EPA. The available data does not indicate that contamination has impacted the aquifer at Hecla Water Association's wellfield. Because sampling requirements are for treated water, the lack of water quality impacts does not necessarily indicate a lack of contamination. This determination is limited by the sampling that is performed for the water system. Eight (8) potential sources of contamination have been identified by Hecla Water Association including SR 7, the Ohio River, home septic systems, an auto body shop, commercial facilities with fuel/fuel oil tanks, and a salvage yard. Because of these potential sources of contamination that exist within the wellhead/source water protection area and the moderate sensitivity of the aquifer, the Hecla Water Association's wellfield is considered to be moderately susceptible to contamination. In summary, there is a moderate likelihood for contamination of the Hecla Water Association's source water. Implementing appropriate protection strategies for the potential contaminant sources will help reduce the likelihood of contamination affecting the aquifer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Hecla Water Association-Plant PWS at:

Hecla Water Association Inc.

3190 State Route 141

Ironton, OH 45638

PWSID: OH4401612 Facility ID: 4455505

Hecla Water Board of Directors meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at the water office. The address is 3190 State Route 141 Ironton, OH 45638

Hecla Water's contact person for questions regarding the water system and/or CCR would be Tony Howard, General Manager or Patrick Carpenter, Engineering Dept., both of who are present at the board of directors meetings. They can also be reached at 740-533-0528.

The Source Water Assessment for Hecla Water Association is available online at <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/gis/swpa/OH4401612.pdf>

A direct link to the 2026 Consumer Confidence Report for Hecla Water Association is listed on the July billing statements and hard copies are available at the office.

The 2026 CCR is available online at <http://heclawater.com/PDF/HeclaWater-CCR-2026.pdf>

Hecla Water has a current, unconditioned license to operate this water system.

HECLA WATER LAB AVERAGES FROM 2025

A table containing the averages of various values from the daily lab testing is listed below:

Name	Average	Range
pH*	7.26	7.19 – 7.40
Phenol Alkalinity	0 mg/L	0
Total Alkalinity	116.05	106.29 – 123.94
Total Hardness	154.82 mg/L	116.45 – 169.55
Total Hardness	9.04 grains/gal	6.80 – 9.91
*pH is scaled from 0 (acidic) to 14 (alkaline)		

DEFINITIONS FOR TEST RESULT TABLES

< (Less Than): The amount detected was less than the value shown.

> (Greater Than): The amount detected was greater than the value shown.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

Nonreg: Contaminant is not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RAA (Running Annual Average): The average of sample results collected over the previous four calendar quarters.

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

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of water clarity or turbidity.

ppm (Parts Per Million): A unit used to express concentration; approximately equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L) in water.

ppb (Parts Per Billion): A unit used to express concentration; approximately equivalent to micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) in water.

mg/L (Milligrams per Liter): A unit used to measure the concentration of contaminants in water; approximately equivalent to parts per million (ppm).

$\mu\text{g/L}$ (Micrograms per Liter): A unit used to measure very small concentrations of contaminants in water; approximately equivalent to parts per billion (ppb).

pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

MFL (Million Fibers per Liter): A measure of the concentration of asbestos fibers in water.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

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 allow for a margin of safety.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The results for the unregulated contaminant testing in recent years are shown in the table below. If you have any questions, please call 740-533-0526.

Name	Average	Range	Year
Barium	18.1 µg/l	N/A	2024

HECLA WATER TREATMENT PLANT RESULTS TABLE #1

PWS—OH4401612 SOURCE—GROUNDWATER WELL FIELD ON SR 7 NEAR ATHALIA. THE HECLA WATER ASSOCIATION ROUTINELY MONITORS FOR CONTAMINANTS IN YOUR DRINKING WATER ACCORDING TO FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS. THESE TABLES SHOW THE MOST RECENT TESTING DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS. WSFID 4455505

Contaminate	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range	Violation	Year	Typical Source of contamination
Asbestos	7 MFL	7 MFL	<0.18	N/A	NO	2021	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.955	0.83 – 0.94	NO	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.488 mg/L	N/A	NO	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	1.09 mg/L	0.80-1.40	NO	2025	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	51.4	14.1 – 81.0	NO	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N/A	60	28.6	0.0 – 52.7	NO	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Alpha emitter	0	15 pCi/L	1.0 ± 1.3	N/A	NO	2021	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation
Radium 228	0	5 pCi/L	0.84 ± 0.64	N/A	NO	2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminate	MCLG	MCL	90th Percentile	Range	Violation	Year	Typical Source of contamination
Lead** (ppb)	0	Action limit=15	1.3	N/A	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	Action limit=1.300	.211	N/A	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Table 1 Additions:

1 of 60 lead samples exceeded the action level in July – December 2025 testing cycle.

0 of 60 copper samples extended the action level in July – December 2025 testing cycle.

CITY OF IRONTON – SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RESULTS TABLE #2

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2025	2	2	0.0332	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2025	200	200	0.74	NA	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	1.04	0.86–1.25	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	26.1	14.1–85	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.69	0.44–1.11	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT ¹	NA	1.34	0.98–2.24	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	39.66	15.9–65.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.061	0.006–0.245	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	<1.1	0.01–11.6	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2025	0.0055	0.01–1	NA

¹ The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.