

2021 CONSUMER  
CONFIDENCE REPORT ON  
WATER QUALITY FOR 2020

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



Bellflower/Norwalk

Liberty is committed to providing customers with safe, quality drinking water. We are proud to present this Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) that shares detailed information regarding local water service and our compliance with state and federal quality standards during the 2020 calendar year.

Liberty makes appropriate investments each year to deliver water that meets safety standards established by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We invest responsibly to maintain the local water infrastructure because a strong infrastructure is key to delivering quality water. The water we deliver to your home or business is thoroughly tested by independent laboratories, and data is provided to DDW to verify compliance with primary and secondary state and federal water quality standards.

We know our customers rely on us for water that is safe to drink, and we take this responsibility seriously. At Liberty, "Energy and Water for Life" are more than a tagline. Our employees live in the community and take pride in providing quality water and reliable service to you and your neighbors.

If you have any questions about this report, please don't hesitate to contact us at 800-727-5987.

On behalf of the entire Liberty family, thank you for being a valued customer and neighbor. We are proud to be your water provider.

Sincerely,

Chris Alario  
President, Liberty - California

*This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact Liberty at (800) 727-5987 for assistance in Spanish.*

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor comunicarse con Liberty al (800) 727-5987 para asistirlo en Español.*



## Where Does My Water Come From?

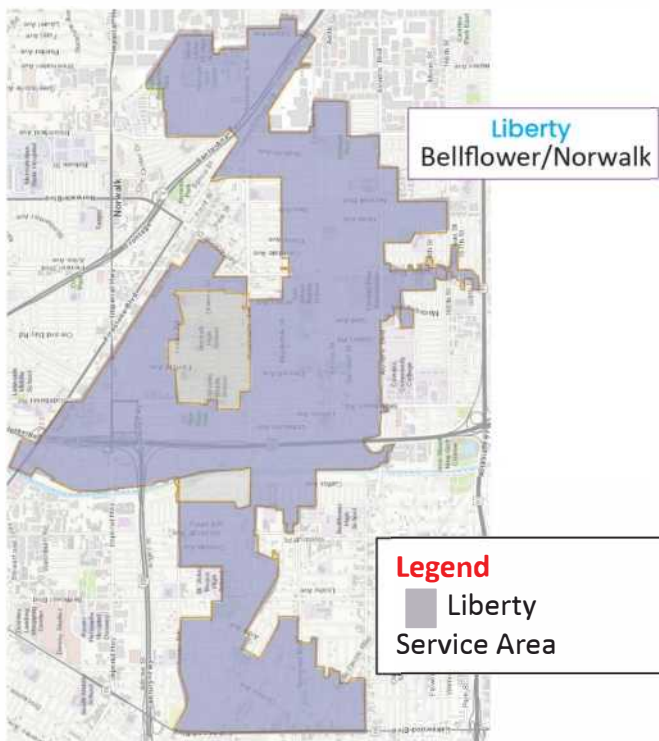
In 2020 Liberty – Bellflower/Norwalk system obtained 76.4% of its source water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The MWD imports water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by way of the State Water Project. An additional 23.6% came from wells 40D, 41A and 46C that pump groundwater from the Central Basin Aquifer.

### About the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

MWD is a consortium of 26 cities and water districts that provides drinking water to nearly 19 million people in parts of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The mission of the MWD is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. MWD continues to add storage and conservation resources to its already diverse water supply portfolio to ensure a reliable water supply well into the future. Further, MWD continues to invest in water quality improvements, including the addition of ozone as a treatment process, and the expansion of its treatment capacity that will provide excellent quality water. For more information about MWD, visit their website at [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com).

### Two Sources of Imported Water

The Bellflower/Norwalk system receives the majority of its water from the MWD Diemer Filtration Plant in Yorba Linda. In 2020, the Diemer Plant source water consisted of 9% State Water Project supply, and 91% Colorado River Water supply.



## From The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

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 human activity.

### 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, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides that 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 that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and California Law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Sensitive Populations May Be More Vulnerable

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 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. The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control (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 at 1-800-426-4791.



## What Are The Drinking Water Standards?

Drinking water standards are the regulations set by the USEPA to control the level of contamination in the nation's drinking water. The USEPA and the SWRCB are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards in California. These standards are part of the Safe Drinking Water Act's "multiple barrier approach" to drinking water protection. This approach includes assessing and protecting drinking water sources; protecting wells and surface water; making sure water is treated by qualified operators; ensuring the integrity of the distribution system, and making information about water quality available to the public. The water delivered to your home meets the standards required by the USEPA and the SWRCB.

If you would like more information about water quality, or to find out about upcoming opportunities to participate in public meetings, please call Liberty's Downey office at (800)-727-5987.

This report describes those contaminants that have been detected in the analyses of almost 200 different potential contaminants, nearly 100 of which are regulated by the USEPA and the SWRCB. Liberty is proud to tell you that there have been no contaminants detected that exceed any federal or state drinking water standards. Hundreds of samples are collected every month by Liberty to assure that all primary (health related) and secondary (aesthetic) drinking water standards are being met. Sample results are available on the table that is part of this report.

This report is intended to provide information for all water users. If received by an absentee landlord, a business, or a school, please share the information with tenants, employees, or students. We are happy to make additional copies of this report available. You may also access this report on the Liberty web page at [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

## Source Water Assessment

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments required states to perform an assessment of potentially contaminating activities near drinking water sources of all water utilities. Liberty updated the Source Water Assessment in 2017. Liberty's well sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities: gas stations; dry cleaners; metal plating/finishing/fabricating shops; military installations; chemical/petroleum processing and storage facilities; and underground storage tanks.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at Liberty's Downey office and the SWRCB office in Glendale. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting Mr. Frank Heldman of Liberty at 562-805-2015, or by contacting Ms. Lillian Luong, SWRCB sanitary engineer, at 818-551-2038.

## Important Health Information

### 1,4 - Dioxane

In 2011, Liberty, along with other water in the Central Basin aquifer, sampled all wells for 1,4-dioxane at the request of the SWRCB. While 1,4-dioxane is not a regulated chemical, SWRCB had set a Notification Level (NL) of 1 part per billion (ppb) in 2010. In 2020, Liberty found low levels of 1,4-dioxane in four active wells in the Bellflower/Norwalk system. SWRCB does not recommend Liberty remove these wells from service unless they exceed 10 times the NL. Little scientific data are available on the long-term effects of 1,4-dioxane on human health, although the USEPA has listed it as a probable human carcinogen.

Besides this notice, the only action required was notification of the city councils of the communities Liberty serves where 1,4-dioxane was found. This was done on June 30, 2020.

### Lead

While there have never been any problems with lead in our water system, the USEPA and the SWRCB require the following information to be presented in this report. 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. Liberty 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

### Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes called PFCs, are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. PFAS have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as an emerging contaminant on the national landscape.

The U.S. EPA has not established enforceable drinking water standards, called maximum contaminant levels, for these chemicals. In February 2020, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) updated the response levels for PFAS. A response level is a non-regulatory, precautionary health-based measure that represents a recommended level that water systems consider taking a water source out of service or provide treatment if that option is available to them. The new response levels for PFOA are 10 ng/L and for PFOS 40 ng/L.

PFOA and PFOS are readily absorbed but not readily eliminated from the human body. Health effects associated with long-term exposure include harmful effects to a developing fetus or infant; harmful effects to the immune system, thyroid, and liver; and cancer. In addition to water, humans can be exposed to PFOA and PFOS through a variety of sources, including food, dust in homes, and imported consumer products. For information on PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Sampling conducted in 2020 indicated the presence of PFOA and PFOS in the source water. Liberty has proactively taken the wells offline so no customers will receive water from these sources. In addition, we are studying treatment options for all the wells to protect public health.

Who can I call if I have questions about PFAS in my drinking water?

If any resident has additional questions regarding this issue, Liberty can be contacted at (800)-727-5987. You may also contact the Production Department at (562) 805-2066 Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.



### Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. Liberty treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water to be maintained within a range of 0.6 mg/L to 1.2 mg/L with an optimum dose of 0.7 mg/L. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.56 mg/L to 0.81 mg/L with an average of 0.70 mg/L. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html)

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR)

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to identify unregulated contaminants for potential regulation. Every five years, the USEPA identifies a list of unregulated chemicals to be monitored by the nation's water utilities over a three-year period. The current monitoring cycle (UCMR-4) is from 2018 – 2020. Results from this monitoring are included in this report. Once the USEPA has compiled this occurrence data nationally, they are required to determine if there is a meaningful opportunity for increased health protection of drinking water through regulation of these contaminants.

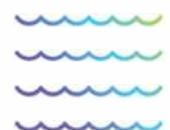


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Primary Standards - Health Based (units)	Primary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection for MWD	Average Level for MWD	Range of Detection for LU Sources	Average Level for LU Sources	Most Recent Sampling Date <sup>(a)</sup>	Typical Source of Constituent
<b>Turbidity <sup>(a)</sup></b>								
Highest single measurement of the treated surface water (NTU)	TT = 1.0	n/a	0.04	n/a	n/a	n/a	2020	Soil runoff
Lowest percent of all monthly readings less than 0.3 NTU (%)	TT = 95	n/a	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	2020	Soil runoff
<b>Inorganic Constituents</b>								
Aluminum (µg/L)	1000	600	ND - 260	137	ND	ND	2020	Erosion of natural deposits, residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (µg/L)	10	0.004	ND	ND	2.0	2.0	2019	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (mg/L)	2.0	1	0.5 - 0.9	0.7	0.32-0.39	0.37	2020	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N] (mg/L)	10	10	ND	ND	0.87-3.3	2.27	2020	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Constituents</b>								
1,1-Dichloroethylene (µg/L)	6	10	ND	ND	ND - 0.79	ND	2020	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (µg/L)	5	0.06	ND	ND	ND - 0.86	ND	2020	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
<b>Radioactive Constituents</b>								
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	n/a	0.019	ND	ND	ND-1.07	1.53	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	ND - 3	ND	ND - 5	ND	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Activity (pCi/L)	50	(0)	ND - 7	ND	n/a	n/a	2020	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1 - 3	2	2.2	2.2	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards - Aesthetic (units)	Secondary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection for MWD	Average Level for MWD	Range of Detection for LU Sources	Average Level for LU Sources	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Aluminum (µg/L)	200	n/a	ND - 260	137	ND	ND	2020	Erosion of natural deposits, residue from some surface water treatment processes
Color (units)	15	n/a	1	1	ND	ND	2020	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Chloride (mg/L)	500	n/a	93 - 94	94	86	86	2020	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Odor—Threshold (units)	3	n/a	2	2	1	1	2020	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	n/a	964 - 975	970	930	930	2020	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	n/a	215 - 217	216	150	150	2020	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	n/a	582 - 603	592	570	570	2020	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	5	n/a	ND	ND	0.6	0.6	2020	Soil runoff
Other Parameters (units)	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection for MWD	Average Level for MWD	Range of Detection for LU Sources	Average Level for LU Sources	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Aggressive Index (units) <sup>(c)</sup>	n/a	n/a	12.3 - 12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	2020	
Alkalinity (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	117 - 120	118	200	200	2020	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	65 - 67	66	100	100	2020	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (mg/L) <sup>(d)</sup>	n/a	n/a	261 - 269	265	330	330	2020	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring
Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (grains/gal)	n/a	n/a	15.2 - 15.7	15.5	19.3	19.3	2020	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring
Magnesium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	25 - 26	26	20	20	2020	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH units)	n/a	n/a	8.1	8.1	7.7	7.7	2020	Hydrogen ion concentration
Potassium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	4.5 - 4.7	4.6	4.4	4.4	2020	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (mg/L) <sup>(e)</sup>	n/a	n/a	93 - 98	96	68	68	2020	Refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring



Meets/  
Exceeds  
Regulations



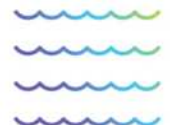


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Unregulated Drinking Water Constituents (units)	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection for MWD	Average Level for MWD	Range of Detection for LU Sources	Average Level for LU Sources	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
1,4-Dioxane (µg/L)	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	ND-2.7	1.7	2020	Used a solvent or solvent stabilizer in manufacture and processing of paper, cotton, textile products, automotive coolant, cosmetics and shampoos
Hexavalent Chromium (µg/L)	RL = 1	0.02	ND	ND	ND-1.1	ND	2016	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities, erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorooctanesulfonate Acid (PFOS) (ng/L)	6.5	n/a	ND	ND	9.7-56.0	42.72	2020	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ng/L)	5.1	n/a	ND	ND	3.0-14.0	10.16	2020	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) (ng/L)	n/a	n/a	ND	ND	ND-11.0	8.22	2020	Used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
Boron (µg/L)	1000	n/a	130	130	n/a	n/a	2019	
Chlorate (µg/L)	800	n/a	69	69	n/a	n/a	2019	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant, disinfection byproduct, and used in production of chlorine dioxide
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ng/L)	10	3	3.1	3.1	n/a	n/a	2019	Chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and plastics.
Manganese (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.96-2.4	1.52	2019	
HAA5 (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.38-5.3	1.17	2019	
HAA6Br (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.38-6.2	1.60	2019	
HAA9Br (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.38-10.4	2.12	2019	
Microbiological Constituents (units)	Primary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Value			Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent	
Total Coliform Bacteria ≥40 Samples/Month (Present / Absent)	More than 5% of monthly samples are positive	(0)	Highest percent of monthly samples positive was 2.04 %			2020	Naturally present in the environment	
Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals (units)	Primary MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MRDLG)	Range of Detection		Average Level		Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Fluoride (mg/L) (Treatment Added)	2.0	1.0	0.56 - 0.81		0.70		2020	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that produces strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Chlorine [as Cl <sub>2</sub> ] (mg/L)	(4.0)	(4)	0.13 - 3.01		1.55		2020	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
HAA5 [Total of Five Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	60	n/a	ND-9.3		5.70		2020	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total of Four Trihalomethanes] (µg/L)	80	n/a	ND-28.5		22.1		2020	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper Rule	Action Level	PHG (MCLG)	Sample Data		Range of Detection	90th Percentile Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	0.3	1 of the 30 samples collected exceeded the action level		ND-0.07	0.2	2019	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (mg/L)	15	0.2	0 of the 30 samples collected exceeded the action level		ND-0.07	ND	2019	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits



Meets/  
Exceeds  
Regulations



## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND FOOTNOTES

**mg/L or ppm** = milligrams per liter or parts per million

**µg/L or ppb** = micrograms per liter or parts per billion

**ng/L or ppt** = nanograms per liter or parts per trillion

**pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter

**NA or N/A** = Not applicable or Not required

**ND** = Not detected

**TT** = Treatment Technique

**NL** = Notification Level

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units. This is a measure of suspended material in the water

**(a)** = Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance

**(b)** = The state allows us to monitor for some parameters less than once per year because the concentrations of these parameters in groundwater sources do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.

**[c]** = An aggressive Index of 11 or greater indicates the water is non-aggressive (non-corrosive)

**(d)** = Hardness is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.

**[e]** = Sodium refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.

**(f)** = The TTHM and HAA5 average is the highest of the Locational Annual Running Average (LRAA) for the year

## DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Public Health Goal (PHG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)**: MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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

**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 do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants

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

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



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Exceeds  
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