A close-up of water waves

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Consumer Confidence Report**

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Utility Department 2024





**Is my water safe?**

The Little River Band Utility Department would like to report that last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards.

Our water system is a Community System based on the population served in accordance with the U.S. EPA guidelines. We serve approximately 2,802 customers daily.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**

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 the 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).

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/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Where does my water come from?**

The Tribal Water Distribution system is a Ground Water system and has two (2) source wells with a 250,000-gallon spheroid storage tower. These wells are sunk 208 feet deep into Coloma Sand at the edge of the Marshal Aquifer and can supply over 700,000 gallons of water a day. An estimated average daily use is currently 97,191 gallons per day. The distribution system consists of PVC, HDPE, and Ductile Iron piping in various sizes. The level of water in the storage tower, which supplies the needed water pressure to your household or business, is controlled via radio telemetry. The Water Storage Tower is controlled by our staff for needed level changes due to seasonal, fire-related emergencies and/or maintenance concerns.

**Source water assessment and its availability**

A source water assessment completed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Environmental Services Division, 3601 Mackinaw Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. in October of 2002, is available for review in our office.

**Why are there contaminants in my 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.

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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, 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**How can I get involved?**

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Try one today and soon it will become second nature.

* Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
* Shutting off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving can save up to 500 gallons a month.
* Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
* Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
* Water plants only when necessary.
* Fix leaky toilets and faucets. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
* Teach your children about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
* Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

* Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
* Pick up after your pets.
* Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
* Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

**Other Information**

The Utility Department office is located at 2539 Dontz Road, Manistee Michigan. The Utility Department office is open to the public Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. We are also available 24/7/365 for water or sewer emergencies. Contact numbers are posted at the utility infrastructure maintained by the utility.

**Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

No monitoring or data compliance violations.

**Additional Information for Lead**

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. Little River Band of Ottawa Indians 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.

**Water Quality Data Table**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report, unless otherwise noted. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

**Additional Monitoring**

Additional sampling for Unregulated Contaminates took place in May, June and November of 2024, the results are listed below. PFOS/PFOA is part of the Unregulated Contaminate Monitoring Rule (UCMR), this rule was created in the Safe Drinking Water Act to continually look for new and emerging contaminates. Also included in the UCMR testing was PFOA and PFOS testing, **no such compounds were found** to be present in the water supply for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

| **Contaminants** | **MCLG or MRDLG** | **MCL, TT, or MRDL** | **Detect in**  **Your Water** | **Range** | | **Sample Date** | | **Violation** |  | **Typical Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products** | | | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Halo-acetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | | By-product of drinking water chlorination | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 5.9 ppb | NA | NA | 2024 | No | | By-product of drinking water disinfection | |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | <1ppm | N/A | N/A | 2024 | No | | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits | |

| **Contaminants** | **MCLG** | **MCL** | **AL** | **Detected in Your Water** | **Sample Date** | **# Samples Exceeding AL** | **Exceeds AL** | **Typical Source** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | NA | 1.3 | 0.025 | 2024 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15  ppb | 5.4 | 0.0010 | 2024 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Barium (ppm) | NA | 2 ppm | NA | 0.017 | 2024 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Zinc(ppm) | NA | 5  ppm | .015 | 0.010 | 2024 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | NA | 4ppm | 2 | .20 ppm | 2024 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Asbestos-(fiber > 10 micrometers) (million fibers per liter MFL) | NA | 7mfl | NA | ND | 2024 | 0 | No | Corrosion of plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| UCMR (unregulated contaminants) (PFOS, PFOA) (ppt) | 0 | 4 ppt | NA | ND | May  2024 | 0 | No | Industrial/manufacturing discharge/spills, firefighting foam |
| UCMR (unregulated contaminants) (PFOS, PFOA) (ppt) | 0 | 4 ppt | NA | ND | June  2024 | 0 | No | Industrial/manufacturing discharge/spills, firefighting foam |
| UCMR (unregulated contaminants) (PFOS, PFOA) (ppt) | 0 | 4 ppt | NA | ND | Nov  2024 | 0 | No | Industrial/manufacturing discharge/spills, firefighting foam |

| **Unit Descriptions** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| ppt | ppt; parts per trillion |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required but recommended. |

| **Important Drinking Water Definitions** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| MCLG | 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. |
| MCL | 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. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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. |
| MRDL | MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of disinfectant is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

| **For more information please contact:** |
| --- |

Contact Name: Gary Lewis  
Address: 2539 Dontz Rd.  
Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: 231-398-2285

**Public Education Notice**

**Important Information About Your Drinking Water**

**Little River Tribal Water System Public Water System**

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**In May, June and November of 2024**, samples of drinking water from the **Little River Tribal Water System** were collected to be tested for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is assisting with investigating the occurrence of PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water.

EPA has established Maximum Contaminant Levels for certain PFAS. Results from the water samples showed that these compounds **were not detected** (i.e., found at or above EPA’s Minimum Reporting Level[[1]](#footnote-1)). There are many PFAS for which EPA has not established a Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level. A total of **19** of these additional PFAS compounds were tested for and not found at or above EPA’s Minimum Reporting Level. See links provided below for where you can access more information.

**For More Information**

Contact Name: Gary Lewis, Utility Director

Greg Walters, Utility Lead Operator

Contact Phone and email: [garylewis@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:garylewis@lrboi-nsn.gov) (231)398-2285

[gregorywalters@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:gregorywalters@lrboi-nsn.gov) (231)510-6537

For information on PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites:

* Basic information, EPA actions to address PFAS, and links to informational resources: [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)
* Health information, exposure, and links to additional resources for PFAS in drinking water:

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

1. The MRL is the minimum quantitation level that, with 95 percent confidence, can be achieved by capable analysts at 75 percent or more of the laboratories using a specified analytical method. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)