

**CITY OF BAD AXE  
2025  
WATER QUALITY REPORT**

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act which added a provision requiring that all community water systems provide their customers with a brief annual water quality report. The City of Bad Axe is pleased to provide this information about the quality of the drinking water we provide you. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Another amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act was to reduce the allowable concentration of arsenic in drinking water. The City's existing ground water supply would not meet this requirement, which went into effect on January 23, 2006. The Bad Axe City Council(s) chose to develop the Huron Regional Water Authority with the Village of Port Austin to provide treated surface water from Lake Huron. The project took ten years to complete and is made up of Port Austin's newer intake system, a new micro filtration water treatment plant and three pumping stations to overcome the 150-foot elevation difference between Bad Axe and Port Austin. The system also included over twenty miles of new water mains, the majority of which are twenty inches in diameter and a new 500,000-gallon water tower. Some of the cost was covered with grant money, but most of the project was paid for with a forty-year loan from the Rural Development Association. The cost of the City's share of this debt is reflected on your water bill as the "Ready to Serve" charge. The operation and maintenance of the City's distribution system which includes the pipeline along M53 starting just south of Port Austin, the three pumping stations, the 500,000 gallon and 300,000-gallon water towers, the water mains in the city and the City's share of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant are covered by the metered usage portion of your bill.

**Where does my water come from?**

As of January 2006, the city's drinking water has been supplied by the system described above.

**ALL OF THE CITY WELLS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE BECAUSE OF EXTREMELY HIGH ARSENIC LEVELS.**

**Is my water safe?**

The water you receive is routinely tested for over eighty contaminants. The contaminants detected are listed in the table located in this report. As you can see from the table, our system had no violations. Your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

In 2015 the City participated in the EPA's UCMR3 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation) water sampling. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. The contaminants detected are shown in the table below. The complete results can be found on the City's website; [www.cityofbadaxe.com](http://www.cityofbadaxe.com) click on "UCMR3 Results" or by contacting City Hall at 989-269-7681.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least fewer 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming operations.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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

A service line is the pipe that connects a home or business to the city water mains. Service line materials can be lead, galvanized iron pipe, plastic, copper, or even ductile iron (typically larger lines 4" diameter and up). The city has 1,444 service lines in the system, of which 957 are classified as "material unknown – likely does not contain lead". Over the next couple of years, the city will be working to identify the material of these 957 service lines.

**Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The city of Bad Axe is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Bad Axe and Dennis McCabe for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.**

Certain people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants	Susceptible Vulnerable Subpopulation	Level of Concern
Fecal Coliform/E. Coli	Infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems	Confirmed presence (any confirmed detect)
Copper	People with Wilson's Disease	1.3 mg/l (ppm)
Fluoride	Children	4.0 mg/l (ppm)
Lead	Infants and children	15.0 ug/l (ppb)
Nitrate	Infants below the age of 6 months.	10.0 mg/l (ppm)
Nitrite	Infants below the age of 6 months	1.0 mg/l (ppm)

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. 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?

The Bad Axe City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month. The Huron Regional Water Authority (HRWA) currently meets on the second Thursday of each month. Contact the Bad Axe City Hall at 989-269-7681 for current schedules and locations for these and various other committee meetings.

**Source Water Assessment** reports prepared by the MDEQ were provided for both water sources. These assessments were conducted in 2003. The purpose of these assessments is to analyze the sensitivity and susceptibility of our drinking water sources. Sensitivity is determined from the natural setting of the source water and indicates natural protection afforded the source water. Susceptibility identifies factors within the source water area that may pose a risk to the water supply.

Bad Axe well: WELLS NO LONGER IN SERVICE.  
 HRWA: Sensitivity is moderate. Susceptibility is moderately high.

The following tables define the various terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with in the water quality chart.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) One penny in \$10,000
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) One penny in \$10,000,000
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
Positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
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 MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. See note below.
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 a disinfectant 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

## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

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. For decades, they have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foam, and metal plating. They are still used today. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples from the general U.S. population.

**The HRWA tested for PFAS compounds in 2025, the results were ND (Not Detected).  
Bad Axe Well #1 is no longer in service, no testing was performed.**

The state has created a website where you can find information about PFAS contamination and efforts to address it in Michigan. The site will be updated as more information becomes available. The website address is: <http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse>

## Coronavirus – COVID-19

There has been no evidence that this virus is viable in drinking water. The virus is extremely susceptible to the treatment processes our drinking water undergoes. The water treatment plant operates at a minimum of a 4-log reduction (99.99%) of microorganisms and routinely exceeds that level. For more information concerning the treatment plant performance contact the Plant Manager, James Guster at 989-738-4180 or [HRWA@airadvantage.net](mailto:HRWA@airadvantage.net).

Please contact the City of Bad Axe, Director of Public Works, Dennis McCabe at 989-269-9132 or City Hall at 989-269-7681 if you have questions regarding this report. The report is also available on the City's web site at [www.cityofbadaxe.com](http://www.cityofbadaxe.com).

**\*\*THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER. EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS IN ALL AGE GROUPS. INFANTS AND CHILDREN CAN HAVE DECREASES IN IQ AND ATTENTION SPAN. LEAD EXPOSURE CAN LEAD TO NEW LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS OR EXACERBATE EXISTING LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS. THE CHILDREN OF PERSONS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO LEAD BEFORE OR DURING PREGNANCY CAN HAVE INCREASED RISK OF THESE ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS. ADULTS CAN HAVE INCREASED RISKS OF HEART DISEASE, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, OR NERVOUS SYSTEMS PROBLEMS. \*\*IN 2025, THE LEAD ACTION LEVEL WAS REDUCED FROM 15PPB TO 12PPB.**

**2025 WATER QUALITY TABLE**

This table lists the contaminants detected in the 2025 calendar year. A few contaminants were tested in years previous to 2022 as the EPA/State require us to monitor less than annually because concentrations of certain contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants (Sample Source)	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.								
Chlorine as Cl <sub>2</sub> , ppm (Dist)	4	4	0.785	0.26	2.05	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids-HAA5, ppb (Dist)	NA	60	19.3	13	25	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes-TTHMs, ppb (Dist)	NA	80	40.5	24	64	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium, ppm (HRWA)	NA	2	0.02	NA	NA	2025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Calcium, ppm (HRWA)	NA	NA	26	NA	NA	2025	No	Naturally present in water, is dissolved from natural deposits. Components of Hardness.
Magnesium, ppm (HRWA)	NA	NA	7.4	NA	NA	2025	No	
Chloride, ppm (HRWA)	NA	NA	11	NA	NA	2025	No	Dissolved from natural deposits, industrial waste
Nitrate as Nitrogen, ppm (HRWA)	10	10	ND	---	---	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium, ppm (HRWA) **	NA	NA	6.6	---	---	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Sulfate, ppm (HRWA) **	NA	NA	15	---	---	2025	No	Dissolved from natural deposits, industrial waste
Hardness, ppm CaCO <sub>3</sub> (HRWA) **	NA	NA	112	96	150	2025	No	
Strontium, ppb (Dist) UCMR3**	NA	NA	108	99	118	2015	No	
Chromium-6, ppb (Dist) UCMR3**	NA	NA	0.10	0.08	0.14	2015	No	
Chlorate, ppb (Dist) UCMR3**	NA	NA	125	51	229	2015	No	
Vanadium, ppb (Dist) UCMR3**	NA	NA	0.25	<0.2*	0.30	2015	No	
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform/E. Coli, positive samples *** (Dist and HRWA)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2025	No	Human and animal fecal waste
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters, pCi/L (HRWA)	0	15	ND	NA	-0.81	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium combined 226/228, pCi/L (HRWA)	0	5	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Turbidity</b>								
Turbidity, NTU (HRWA)	NA	TT 0.5	0.036	0.029	0.053	2025	No	Soil runoff
<b>Contaminants (Sample Source)</b>								
	Action Level	MCLG	Your Water	Range of Results		Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper-action level at consumer taps, ppm (Dist)	1.3	1.3	0.3	0-0.3		2024	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead-action level at consumer taps, ppb (Dist)	15	0	3	0-23		2024	1	Lead Service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
* Value is less than the minimum reporting level.								
** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.								
*** A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive and one is also fecal or E. Coli positive.								
Fluoride, ppm (HRWA)	4	4	ND	NA	NA	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Water additive which promotes strong teeth. HRWA does not add Fluoride to the water.

