

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## City of Emerado

### 2023

We are pleased to present to you this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The city of Emerado purchases its water from East Central Regional Water District.

East Central Regional Water District is participating in the North Dakota Wellhead Protection Program. Relevant information on the Wellhead Protection plan is available during normal business hours at our Thompson office. The North Dakota Department of Health has prepared a Source Water Assessment for East Central Regional Water and the City of Emerado. Information on these programs is available to the public during normal business hours at the above-listed water systems.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Department of Health has determined that our source water is moderately susceptible to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

Emerado is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Janelle Klava, City Auditor, at (701) 594-4542. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. **They are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Emerado City Hall located at 201 Main Street.** If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Janelle Klava at the number listed above.

Emerado would appreciate it if large volume water customers would please post copies of the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

Emerado routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for radioactive contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old. 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.

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 stormwater, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil production, mining or farming.

*Pesticides and herbicides*, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater 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, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain 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.

In the table on pages 3 and 4 you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Not Applicable- (N/A)*

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )*- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

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

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 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.

<b>2023 TEST RESULTS for EMERADO</b>								
	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Date (year)</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No Other Info</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Lead/Copper-Emerado</b>								
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0552 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value	ppm	NA	2021	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*	0	AL=15	No Detect 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value	ppb	NA	2021	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants-East Central RWD</b>								
Nitrate-Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.298	ppm	NA	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectants-Emerado</b>								
Chlorine	4	4	0.4	ppm	0.04 to 0.57	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products-Emerado</b>								
HAA5	60		No Detect	ppb	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	80		3	ppb	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Violation:** *Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBP) – Failure to Routine Monitor Chlorine (Major), 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023.* We failed to take the required number of samples for Chlorine during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023. Some people who use water containing chlorine well more than the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well more than the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort. The city of Emerado is taking steps to correct this violation of the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule by returning to a normal testing routine.

**Violation:** *Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) – Failure to Routine Monitor – July 2023.* Our water system is required to sample for Total Coliform bacteria on a monthly basis. We failed to collect the required number of total coliform samples during the month of July 2023 and are, therefore, unsure of the quality of the water at that time. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. The City of Emerado is taking steps to correct this violation of the Revised Total Coliform Rule by returning to a routine testing schedule. Once every five years EPA issues a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water

systems. The East Central Rural Water District – Grand Forks was selected by EPA to sample for thirty (30) unregulated contaminants during 2023. Samples were collected two times at the entry point to the distribution system, as required. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Should you have any questions, please contact our office. None of the 30 contaminants included in this round of sampling were detected.

\*If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The city of Emerado is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.** If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize expo-sure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table on pages 3 & 4 are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. As you can see by the table above and on pages 3 and 4, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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.

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 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).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Please call our office at (701) 594-4542 if you have questions concerning your drinking water.

City of Emerado works diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.