



CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – WATER DIVISION

On Behalf of the water systems that we supply



Pennfield Charter Township
Battle Creek, MI



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethanes Maximum Contaminant Level Violation in Battle Creek, Springfield and Emmett Township

Important information about this violation for portions of Pennfield Township that receive water from Battle Creek. Pennfield Township residents living on the following streets are the only residents impacted: Bellevue Road, Garrison Road, 45 Park Avenue, 600-740 North Avenue, Brigden Drive, Hampton Avenue, Pickford Avenue, 69-187 Sharon Avenue, Burton Street, Hidden Lane, Raymond Road, 10-77 VanArmon Street, Charlemagne Blvd., Kimball Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Cooper Avenue, LaGrange Avenue, Toulouse Blvd., Darlene Lane, Maxwell Avenue, Wagner Drive, Dick Street, Mill Road, Willison Avenue, Eiffel Drive, 54 Montford Street. Pennfield Township water customers that do not live on these streets have a different water source and are not impacted by this issue.

- For help in another language, please call the Department of Public Works at 269-966-3343. The city will provide interpretation at no cost.
- Por consultas o asistencia en español, por favor comuníquese con el Departamento de Obras Públicas al 269 966-3343. Se le conseguirá un intérprete de forma gratuita.
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The City of Battle Creek, City of Springfield and Emmett Township Water Systems do not meet certain water quality standards requirements. Additionally, customers in the areas of Pennfield Township listed above are receiving this same water.

We have identified a drinking water standard violation in our water system that we are actively addressing. While this is not an emergency, we believe it's important to inform you about what happened and the steps we are taking to resolve the issue.

The City of Battle Creek Water Division conducts quarterly sampling to ensure the safety of drinking water. Please review the table below to see the data and sampling dates for each system. Battle Creek, Springfield and Emmett Township water systems exceed the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The standard for TTHM is 80 parts per billion (ppb). This means that more TTHM are present in the water than what is allowed. The level of TTHM in the system was determined by averaging the sample results collected during each quarter for the past 12 months. This is called the running annual average (RAA) and is the number compared to the maximum contaminant level to determine compliance.

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM Level on that sample date	Running Annual Average (RAA)	Drinking Water Standard or MCL
Battle Creek Site 1	2/5/2025	150 ppb	101 ppb	80 ppb
Battle Creek Site 2	2/5/2025	140 ppb	92 ppb	80 ppb
Springfield	2/5/2025	120 ppb	85 ppb	80 ppb
Emmett Township	2/5/2025	170 ppb	117 ppb	80 ppb

Pennfield Township conducts annual sampling to ensure the safety of their drinking water. The most recent sampling data from the impacted streets in Pennfield Township listed above is shown in the table below. While the Pennfield Township data indicates that the TTHM levels in the impacted portion of Pennfield are within allowable levels, impacted Pennfield customers have a right to know the source water delivered to this part of the system has more than allowable levels. Pennfield will collect a sample in March 2025 to investigate the current levels of TTHM within the impacted portions of the Pennfield system.

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM Level on that sample date	Running Annual Average (RAA)	Drinking Water Standard or MCL
Impacted streets in Pennfield	8/13/2024	35 ppb	35 ppb	80 ppb

What should I do?

The recent rise in TTHM levels is not an emergency. Some people who drink water containing TTHM in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

No action is required unless you have a severely compromised immune system, an infant, or are elderly. As a precaution, individuals in these groups should seek advice from their healthcare providers.

You will be notified within 24 hours if the situation changes, and the water presents an immediate risk.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.

What is being done?

Battle Creek is taking the following actions on behalf of their customer water supplies to identify the probable causes and remedy the issue.

1. We are evaluating well replacement activities at the Verona Well Field.

The source of water for the Battle Creek, Springfield, Emmett and Pennfield Convis/Verona Water systems is the Battle Creek Verona Well Field. Battle Creek is currently replacing wells in this well field due to the well casings not being in great shape. When we drill wells we must pump millions of gallons of water onto the ground, which can increase the number of natural materials in the water. Because the old well casings weren't in great shape, we had to use more disinfectant over the past year to keep the water safe from bacteria. TTHMs are formed when chlorine (used for disinfection) reacts with these natural materials, and both may have increased over the past year. We have assessed additional sampling for Total Organic Compounds (TOC) at the well field and used 2022 sampling data as a baseline

for comparison. The TOC in our source water shows significant increases from the 2022 data, which indicates that this is a probable cause for these TTHM increases.

The increase in TTHMs is present at all sampling points in Battle Creek, Springfield and Emmett Township water systems. We are looking into possible causes in both the raw water, water treatment process, and the water distribution system.

2. Additional Sampling

In addition, the Verona Well Field, Battle Creek has conducted additional sampling in the water distribution system and the water treatment plant. This data is being shared with the State's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD) to determine causes and corrections for the water system.

3. Operational Evaluation

Due to the levels of TTHM in the water in Battle Creek and Emmett Township in the last quarter, an operational evaluation was required. The evaluation includes assessing water age, water movement out in the distribution system, cycling water in water towers/storage tanks, and processes within the water treatment plant. The evaluation is designed to identify practices that can be used to reduce TTHM in the water system. Battle Creek, Springfield and Emmett Township will conduct an evaluation each quarter until the level of TTHM drops below 80 ppb.

We are confident that we have identified the cause(s) of the elevated TTHMs and are taking corrective action with coordination of DWEHD. We are anticipating improvements in water quality within 12 to 18 months. Achieving compliance will take time because monitoring and reporting are done quarterly, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The results are averaged over four quarterly samples and evaluated for compliance each quarter. Additionally, we expect TTHM levels to drop below historical levels once we complete the improvements to the Verona Well Field.

For more information, please contact Perry Hart, Battle Creek's Utility Administrator at 269-966-3481 or plhart@battlecreekmi.gov or Battle Creek Department of Public Works, 150 South Kendall Street, Battle Creek, MI 49037.

If you have health-related questions, please call the MDHHS Toxicology and Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The City of Battle Creek operates, maintains and supplies the Emmett Township water system by contract with Emmett Township. The city supplies the Springfield Water System and portions of the Pennfield Water System. This notice is being sent to you because your residence receives water from the Battle Creek, Springfield, Emmett Township or impacted portions of the Pennfield Township water system. All of these water systems are provided water by the City of Battle Creek Water Division.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

