



# 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



June 25, 2025

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Total Trihalomethanes Violation Affects Portions of Battle Creek Area

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) has been identified in the water system serving Battle Creek, Springfield, Emmett Township, and the portion of Pennfield Township located east of the Battle Creek River.

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 below 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.

Within Pennfield Township, residents who receive water from Battle Creek and live on the following streets are affected:

- |                      |                      |                  |                   |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • Bellevue Road      | • 69–187 Sharon Ave. | • Roosevelt Ave. | • Dick Street     |
| • Garrison Road      | • Burton Street      | • Cooper Ave.    | • Mill Road       |
| • 45 Park Ave.       | • Hidden Lane        | • LaGrange Ave.  | • Willison Ave.   |
| • 600–740 North Ave. | • Raymond Road       | • Toulouse Blvd. | • Eiffel Drive    |
| • Brigden Drive      | • 10–77 VanArmon St. | • Darlene Lane   | • 54 Montford St. |
| • Hampton Ave.       | • Charlemagne Blvd.  | • Maxwell Ave.   |                   |
| • Pickford Ave.      | • Kimball Ave.       | • Wagner Drive   |                   |

For help in another language, please call the Department of Public Works at 269-966-3343. The city will provide interpretation at no cost.

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|---|---|
| • 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. | • အခြားဘာသာစကားဖြင့် အကူအညီရယူရန်၊ ပြည်သူ့အလုပ်များဌာနကို 269-966-3343 သို့ ဖုန်းခေါ်ပါ။ မြို့တော်မှ အခမဲ့ဘာသာပြန်ပေးမည်။ |
|---|---|

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 MCL, for 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

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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 MCL to determine compliance.

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM Level	RAA	Sample Date	TTHM Level	RAA
Battle Creek Site 1	2/5/2025	150 ppb	101 ppb	5/8/2025	71 ppb	103 ppb
Battle Creek Site 2	2/5/2025	140 ppb	92 ppb	5/8/2025	64 ppb	95 ppb
Springfield	2/5/2025	120 ppb	85 ppb	5/8/2025	56 ppb	86 ppb
Emmett Township	2/5/2025	170 ppb	117 ppb	5/8/2025	73 ppb	116 ppb

Pennfield Township has historically conducted annual sampling to ensure the safety of their drinking water related to Disinfection by Products. The state's department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has directed Pennfield Township to begin quarterly testing to better track TTHM levels and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

The most recent sampling data from the impacted streets in Pennfield Township (listed above) appears in the table below. While past results from this area have remained within allowable TTHM limits, customers have a right to know that the source water delivered to this part of the system has exceeded those limits.

In May 2025, Pennfield Township collected an additional sample as part of the ongoing investigation into current TTHM levels and to meet EGLE's new quarterly sampling requirements. Those results are also included in the table below.

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM Level	RAA	Sample Date	TTHM Level	RAA
8791 Bellevue Rd	8/13/2024	35 ppb	35 ppb	5/20/2025	81 ppb	20 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 does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

### What is being done?

The city is taking the following actions to identify the probable causes and remedy the issue.

#### 1. We have evaluated the 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.

## 2. Hydrant flushing supports water quality improvements

The city recently completed its annual hydrant flushing program, a routine process that clears sediment from water mains and ensures fire hydrants are functioning properly. This year, the flushing was especially important due to elevated TTHM levels in the water system.

The water distribution and production teams worked together to flush several million gallons of water from the distribution system and storage facilities during early morning hours. This water was replaced with treated water from the Verona Wellfield.

Before flushing began, the Water Treatment team adjusted the treatment process, resulting in a promising reduction in TTHM formation. Early testing during the flushing program showed significant improvements in TTHM levels (see table on page 1). These results show the city is making meaningful progress in addressing the issue.

## 3. Additional sampling, ongoing monitoring, and coordination with state officials

The city's water division continues to collect additional samples at the water treatment plant and throughout the distribution system. Staff are sharing this data with the state's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division to help identify the causes of elevated TTHM levels and determine corrective actions.

**See Appendix I – Chart 1.** This chart shows total TTHM levels at the Pumping Station water treatment facility. Levels decreased from January to March due to treatment improvements. A slight increase in early April was likely caused by heavy rainfall, which introduced more organic matter into the source water. In May, TTHM levels dropped again, reflecting the benefits of hydrant flushing and increased water production through the plant.

To support this effort, the water division will conduct more sampling at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter testing period and during the upcoming August event. These tests will help guide further steps to improve water quality across the system.

## 4. Operational evaluation underway to reduce TTHM levels

Due to the levels of TTHM in the water in Battle Creek, Springfield, 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 to reduce TTHM in the water system. The city will conduct a quarterly evaluation 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 in coordination with EGLE. The steps taken so far have already improved water quality, and we expect continued progress over the next 12 to 18 months.

Compliance will take time because the Safe Drinking Water Act requires quarterly monitoring and reporting. Each quarter's results are averaged with the previous three to determine compliance.

We also expect TTHM levels to drop below historical levels once improvements to the Verona Wellfield are complete.

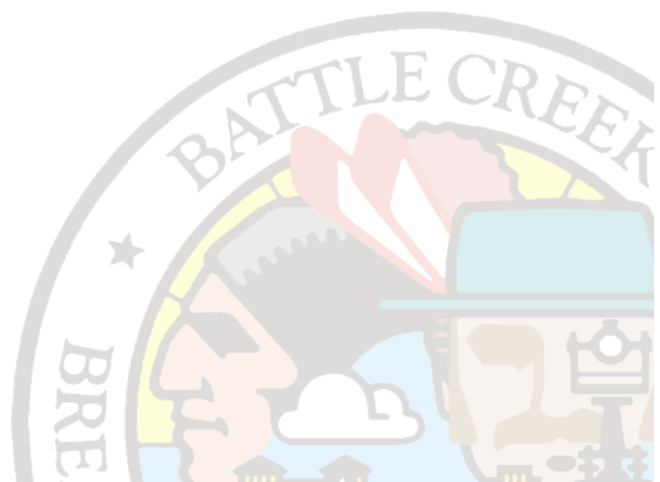
**See Appendix I – Chart 2.** This chart shows TTHM levels over the past two years. Earlier fluctuations likely resulted from compromised well casings, which allowed water from the upper aquifer to mix with the lower aquifer. The recent spikes

in TTHM levels suggest that well drilling and aquifer testing introduced organic matter into the source water, increasing TTHM concentrations. The locations shown in Chart 2 represent fire hydrants situated at various points throughout the distribution system, where water samples are routinely collected to monitor water quality and system performance.

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

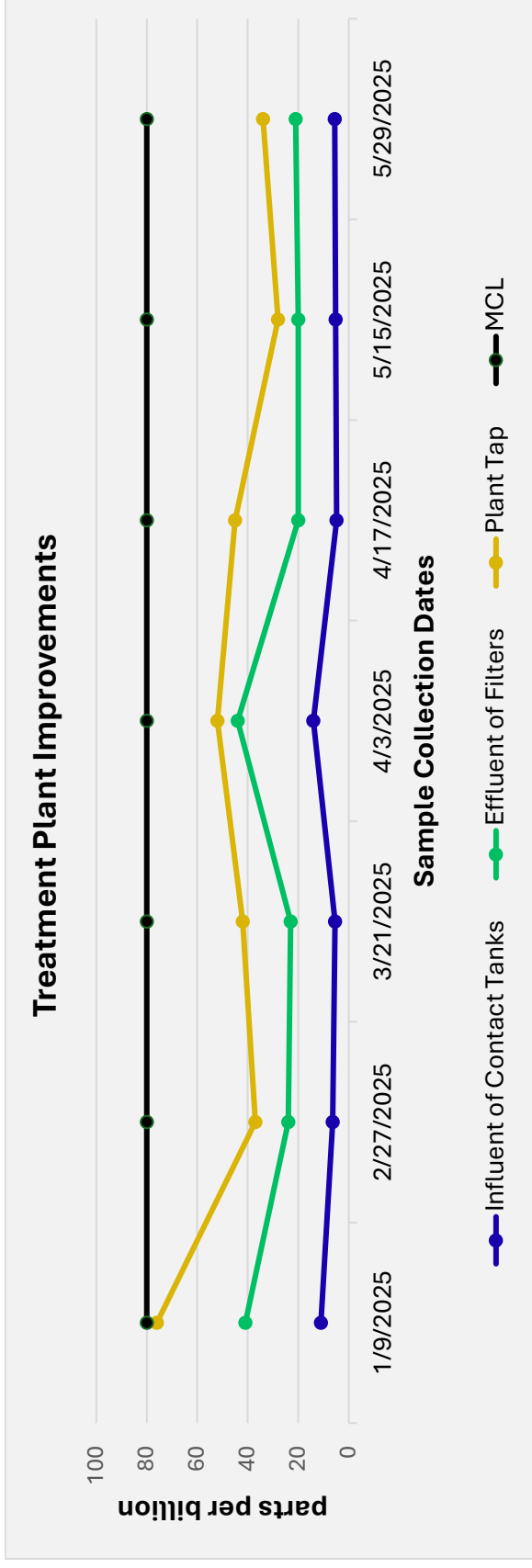
**If you have health-related questions, please call the MDHHS Toxicology and Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

Please share this information with others who drink this water, especially those who may not receive this notice directly—such as people in apartments, nursing homes, schools or businesses. You can do this by posting the notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



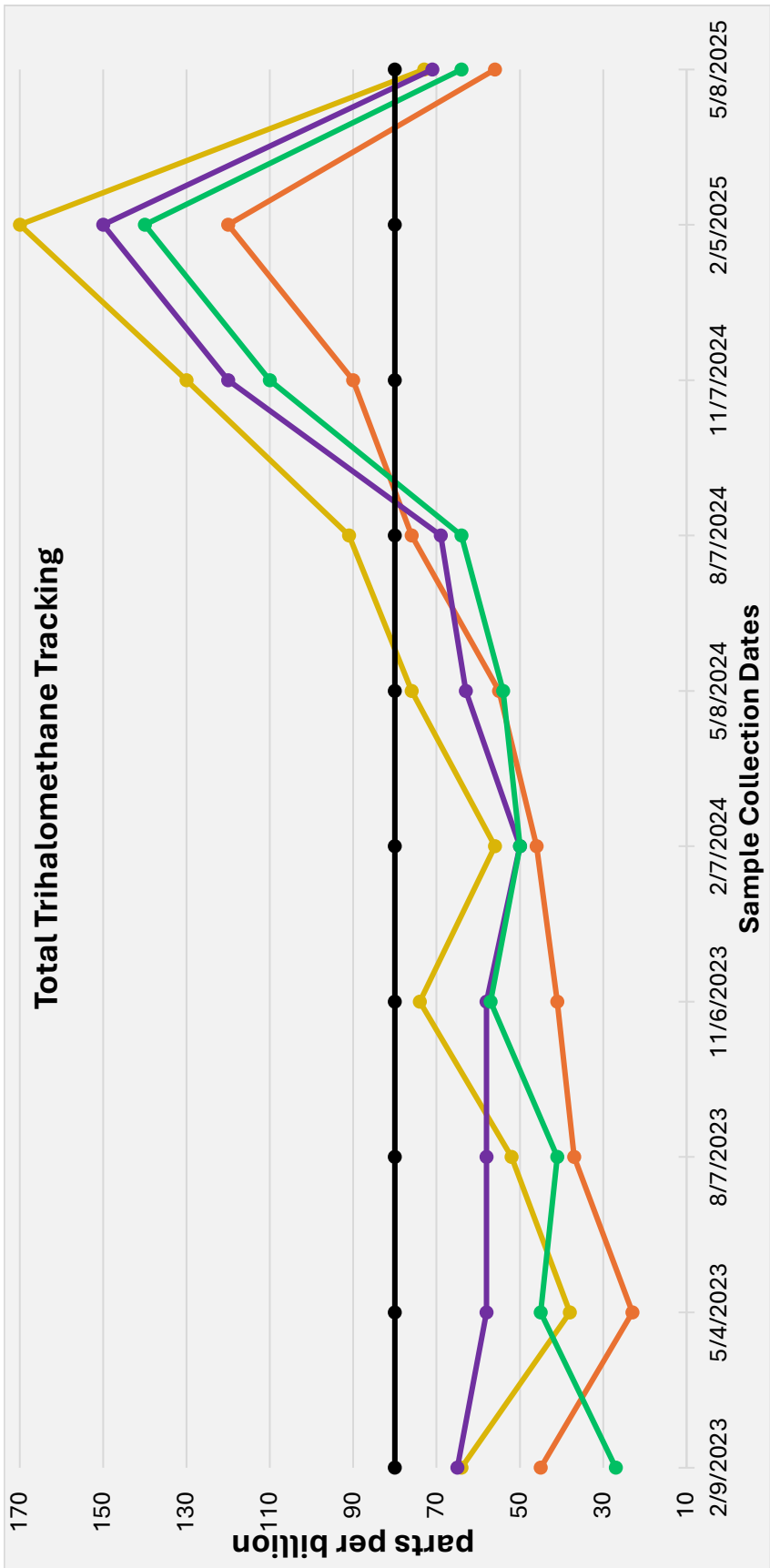
## APPENDIX I

Chart 1:



- **Influent of Contact Tanks:** This is the water entering the contact tanks after chlorination and aeration. The purpose of sampling at this point is to assess the quality of water after the initial disinfection step.
- **Effluent of Filters:** This is the water that has passed through the filtration system. The purpose of sampling is to evaluate the effects of disinfection and detention time through the filtration stage.
- **Plant Tap:** This is the final treated water that's ready to be distributed to the public. The purpose of sampling is to verify that the finished water meets all regulatory standards for safety and quality before it enters the distribution system.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level for TTHM (80 ppb).

Chart 2:



- Emmett Township (14250 Beadle Lake Road)
- Springfield (1600 Ave. A)
- Battle Creek Site 1 (3600 Capital Ave. SW)
- Battle Creek Site 2 (408 Coventry Ave.)
- MCL for TTHM (80 ppb)