



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



October 3, 2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

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 are currently out of compliance with certain water quality standards. Customers in the affected area of Pennfield Township, listed below, receive water from these systems and are also impacted:

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

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

This is not an emergency, but we want to keep you informed. We are actively addressing the violation and taking steps to resolve the issue.

The City of Battle Creek Water Division conducts quarterly sampling to ensure drinking water (DW) safety. Please review the table on page 2 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 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.



150 S. Kendall Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49037
269.966.3496 | www.battlecreekmi.gov

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM level	Running Annual Average (RAA)	DW Standard/ 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
Battle Creek Site 1	5/8/2025	71 ppb	103 ppb	80 ppb
Battle Creek Site 2	5/8/2025	64 ppb	95 ppb	80 ppb
Springfield	5/8/2025	56 ppb	86 ppb	80 ppb
Emmett Township	5/8/2025	73 ppb	116 ppb	80 ppb
Battle Creek Site 1	8/25/2025	86 ppb	107 ppb	80 ppb
Battle Creek Site 2	8/25/2025	110 ppb	106 ppb	80 ppb
Springfield	8/25/2025	58 ppb	81 ppb	80 ppb
Emmett Township	8/25/2025	141 ppb	129 ppb	80 ppb

Pennfield Township has historically done annual sampling to ensure the safety of their drinking water. With the recent increase in TTHM in the water supplied by the City of Battle Creek, the State's [Department of Environment Great Lakes & Energy \(EGLE\)](#) now requires Pennfield to sample on a quarterly basis. The first sampling event under this new guideline was conducted in May of 2025 with the second being done in August of 2025. With these new quarterly sampling requirements, there have not been enough results to determine what the RAA would be. Results from the August sampling are displayed in the table below.

Water System	Sample Date	TTHM level	Running Annual Average (RRA)	DW Standard/ MCL
Impacted streets	5/20/2025	81 ppb	Not yet available due to lack of	80 ppb
in Pennfield	8/13/2025	98 ppb	four quarterly sampling events	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.

This is not an emergency. 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 organic materials in the source water. Due to the condition of the casings, 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 organic 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 and improvements in the raw water, water treatment process, and the water distribution system to include water storage and water age.

2. Additional Sampling

In addition to sampling in 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 EGLE 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 past quarters, 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.

4. Water Age Management

The formation of TTHMs is the result of organic material reacting with the chlorine used for disinfection, which increases with the amount of time this reaction can take place. In our effort to correct this, the City of Battle Creek is working with our consulting engineers and EGLE staff to minimize water stored in reservoirs in an effort to decrease water age and reaction time. This should result in lower TTHM levels.

5. Water Distribution Hydrant Flushing

We have, and are, creating more progressive [fire hydrant flushing programs](#). With the use of our water model, we are determining portions of the water distribution system that have greater water age and are creating hydrant flushing programs to address these areas with concentrated flushing efforts. We also conducted a system-wide flushing program in early August in an attempt to improve water quality.

6. Water Treatment

Additional water treatments at the Verona Water Treatment facility are being developed. The addition of a permanganate treatment process and modifications of the application of the disinfection product show potential for decreasing the formation of TTHM within the treatment process which will provide significant improvement in the water distribution system.

7. Water Storage Facilities

We are currently working with consulting engineers and EGLE to optimize water age in our water storage reservoirs and water towers. These effort are being done to reduce water age as well. We are also considering adding water mixing infrastructure inside storage facilities to further address the water age and TTHM issues.

We are confident that we have identified the cause(s) of the elevated TTHMs and are taking corrective actions with coordination of EGLE and our consulting engineers. We are anticipating improvements in water quality within 6 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.

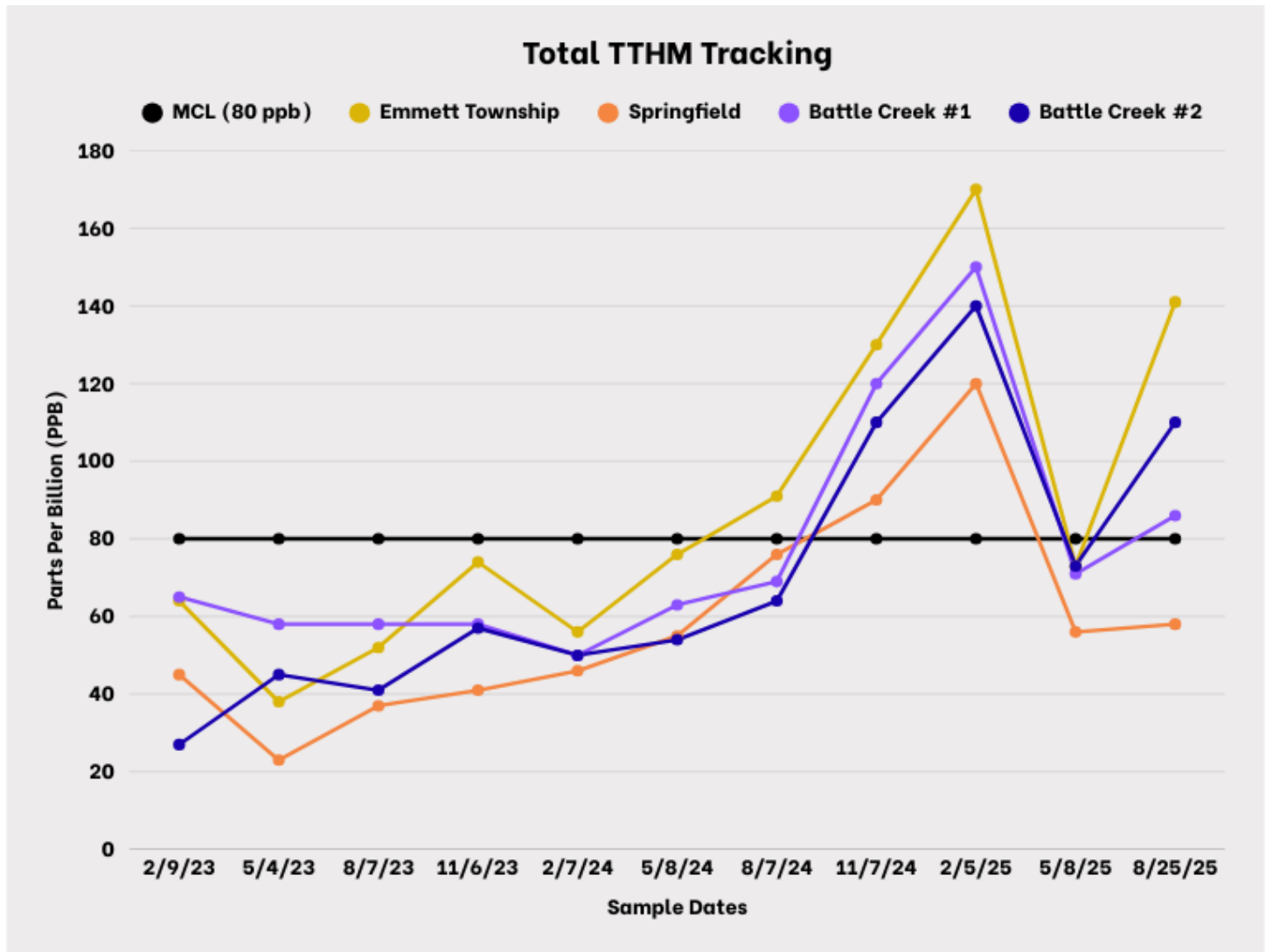
For more information, please contact Perry Hart, Battle Creek's Utility Administrator at 269-966-3481 or plhart@battlecreekmi.gov or visit DPW at 150 South Kendall Street, Battle Creek, MI 49037.

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.



Dear Battle Creek, Emmett Township, Pennfield Township and Springfield water customers,

We are sharing this information as we have received inquiries regarding filtering of water systems with your homes. This first link will explain who the NSF is, the second link provides filtering information. With the filter information, please scroll down to the last article for TTHM information.

<https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/who-is-nsf-international>

<https://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/articles/contaminant-reduction-claims-guide>

I hope you find this information helpful.