



2025 Water Quality Report

Volume 28, Issue 1

June 2026

Little Hocking Water is the largest rural water system in Washington County

- We serve a population of about 9,850 people
- Over 250 miles of water lines
- 8 booster pump stations
- 8 water tanks with a total capacity of about two million gallons
- 4 water wells with an average production of 813,789 gallons per day in 2025
- Three Class II and Three Class I licensed operators

Water Facts

LHWA water hardness is about 385 mg/L (as CaCO₃) or 22.5 grains (very hard)

The treatment that we provide to the water is granular activated carbon filtration (as of November 2, 2007) plus the addition of chlorine and fluoride.

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Water Quality Meets OEPA Standards

The Little Hocking Water Association has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. This report is a summary of the quality of water provided in 2025. In the future, similar reports will be issued annually, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act Reauthorization of 1996. This report includes general health information, water quality test results, water system contacts and information on how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water. As indicated in this report, the Little Hocking Water Association meets the water quality standards of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). * We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

* Effective June 25, 2024, the USEPA adopted legally-enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six PFAS including PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS and GenX. USEPA has since proposed to rescind the MCLs for all but PFOA and PFOS. Each of these six PFAS compounds are present in the untreated water of the Little Hocking Water Association, but none are detected above 2 ppt in the water that enters the distribution system. In addition to these six regulated PFAS, the Little Hocking Water Association is aware that at least two more PFAS of the 18 currently sampled are present in the raw water (but not in the treated water above the detection limit, 2 ppt). The Little Hocking Water Association continues to maintain that there should be no detectable level of PFOA and related compounds in its water (see page 7 for more information on PFAS in raw and treated water at the Little Hocking Water Association).

Public Participation Information

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the Little Hocking Water Association which meets at the Association office on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. The Association office is located in Little Hocking across from the U.S. Post Office.

If you have any questions regarding this report, or any other matter regarding our drinking water, you may contact John Smith, General Manager at (740) 989-2181.

Future Water Rates

In order for our water system to stay financially healthy, water rate increases, like cost increases for everything else, are inevitable. Although a rate increase may occur in 2026, the amount has not yet been determined. The current rate schedule effective June 2025 is presented below.

Minimum 0 to 2,000 gallons	\$34.00/2,000 gallons per month
2,001 to 8,000 gallons	\$12.00/1,000 gallons per month
8,001 to 20,000 gallons	\$12.00/1,000 gallons per month
20,001 gallons and over	\$12.00/1,000 gallons per month

Drinking Water Source is Wells

The Little Hocking Water Association's water source is groundwater obtained from four water wells located in the Porterfield area. The source of water for the wells is the Ohio River Valley Aquifer. This aquifer, which supplies drinking water to the Little Hocking Water Association, has a high susceptibility to contamination as determined by Ohio EPA because of the following reasons:

- ❖ The depth to water in the buried valley aquifer is less than 50 feet below the ground surface;
- ❖ A relatively thin protective layer of silt and clay exists between the ground surface and the aquifer, providing minimal protection from contaminants infiltrating from the ground surface to the aquifer; and
- ❖ Potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area.

A copy of the Source Water Assessment Report revised by Ohio EPA in 2025 is available on the Little Hocking Water website.

This does not mean that this wellfield will become contaminated, only that conditions are such that the groundwater could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. More information is available by calling 740-989-2181.

We have mutual aid agreements with the Tupper's Plains-Chester Water District, the City of Belpre, and the Warren Water Association. The only actual pipe interconnection is with the Warren Water Association, which has limited capacity to assist us. In 2025, we did not pump water from any other water source other than our own water wells.

Danger From Wells, Cisterns, Springs and Ponds !!!

It is mandated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) that residential auxiliary water supplies such as private wells, cisterns, springs, and ponds must **not** be connected in any way to our water system, because some are not safe. Therefore, they represent a danger to the public health.

All private sources of water must be completely disconnected and physically separated from our water system. (A valve separating the systems is not acceptable.) All of our customers have signed a Water User's Agreement by which they agree "that no other present or future source of water will be connected to any water lines served by the Association's water lines...". **Violations of this Agreement endanger the public health and can result in the loss of water service.**

What are Sources of Contamination to Drinking Water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

Drinking Water Sampling

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Little Hocking Water Association collected numerous samples for bacteria, fluoride, chlorine, nitrate, disinfection by-products, lead and copper, inorganic, radiological and volatile organic compounds during 2025. Samples were collected for a total of 50 different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the LHWA water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, may be more than one year old. Listed below is information on regulated and unregulated contaminants that were detected in the drinking water.

<u>Contaminants</u> (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.851	0.555 - 0.851	NO	2025	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0.5	NA	NO	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0765	NA	NO	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.97	0.26 - 1.32	NO	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppm)	None	None	0.127	<10 – 0.127	NO	2025	Leaching from metals; Leaching from soil; and Industrial runoff
Disinfectants and Disinfection ByProducts							
Chloroform	None	None	1.1	0.09 - 1.1	NA	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform	None	None	0.4	0.07 - 0.4	NA	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	None	None	1.4	0.2 - 1.4	NA	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane	None	None	1.2	0.2 - 1.2	NA	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)(ppb)	No goal for the total	80	3.0	0 – 3.6	NO	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.26	0.89 - 1.50	NO	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90% of test levels were less than	Individual Results over the AL	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15	0	4.2	0	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
	None of the 20 samples were found to have a lead level in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.149	0	NO	2025	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	None of the 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

Definition of Terms

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Parts per Trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per Liter (ng/L) are units of measure of concentration of a contaminant. A part per trillion corresponds to one second in 31,700 years.

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

The '<' symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest residual disinfectant level allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of residual disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), which are mainly used on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

Who Needs to Take Special Precautions?

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 infection. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

Potential Danger From Hot Water Heaters Due To Thermal Expansion

Water is a non-compressible fluid that expands when it is heated. This phenomenon is called **thermal expansion**. If heated water does not have any place into which to expand, it builds up pressure in the plumbing. In some cases in a "closed system" this pressure may cause the pressure relief valve on the hot water tank to "pop-off" or seep. **If the pressure relief valve on the hot water tank is not operating properly, the hot water heater could be damaged or even explode, due to thermal expansion.**

"Closed systems" can be caused by closed valves, single check valves, pressure reducing valves, dual check valves, and backflow prevention devices. As part of our backflow prevention program, mandated by the Ohio EPA, Little Hocking Water has been installing metersetters with dual check valves in residential meter pits for the past several years. Many of our customers have "closed systems" of some type. Therefore, the installation of a thermal expansion tank or other suitable pressure-relieving device is recommended within your plumbing system. **We recommend that you contact a reputable plumber or plumbing supplier to recommend a device that will meet your specific needs.**



Backflow Prevention

What is Water Backflow?

Backflow is the flow of water from a house (or building) plumbing system back into the public water system. This reversal of flow can be caused by a drop in water pressure in the public system (such as a water main break or hydrant usage) or an increase of pressure from within a building. Water pressure drops are not uncommon.

What Dangers May Arise from Backflow?

This backflow of water may carry some contaminants from cross connections with your home (or a building) back into the public water system. Harmful substances such as weed killers, fertilizers for grass and flowers, as well as the bacteria in your wading pool can flow backward to the water distribution lines where that can be carried to other water users.

What is Cross Connection?

A connection between drinking water pipes and any source of potential contamination is a cross connection. Common household cross connections are garden hoses left in chemicals, a pool, or even a puddle. Attachments to hoses such as in a sink or bathtub as well as those used to apply lawn chemicals are also cross connections. If a pressure drop occurs, either in the house (due to water use) or in the distribution line (due to water line breaks, hydrant flushing or fires), the contaminants move into the water lines.

What is a Backflow Preventer?

Backflow preventers protect the safety of the public water system and all users by physically preventing the backflow of water and any potential contaminants from the plumbing system in a home or building into the public water system. The devices are installed on plumbing after the water meter.

Who Needs a Backflow Prevention Device?

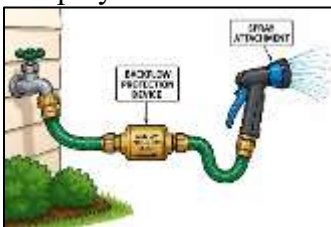
Backflow preventers are required by the Ohio EPA (Ohio Administrative Code 3745-95) and the Ohio Plumbing Code (Chapter 608) to be installed where there is a potential health or contamination threat within the consumer's plumbing system. Most commercial buildings and homes with an in-ground irrigation system require a backflow prevention device. Most of these types of backflow prevention devices must be tested annually by a State certified backflow tester. Results must be maintained by the consumer and sent to the Little Hocking Water Association.

Simple Backflow Prevention Measures for Homes

Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks.



Never use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.



Do buy and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices on all threaded faucets in your home. They are available at hardware and home improvement stores.

Lead Service Line Inventory

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this we used the following sources listed in § 141.84 (b)(2) including historic records, visual inspections or other documentation that indicate the service line materials.

Lead Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Little Hocking Water Association is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Why is My Water Suddenly Discolored?

Common Causes of Discolored Water

Minerals, sediment and rust accumulate in water mains over time. When your water is suddenly discolored, it means some type of disturbance has stirred up these deposits. The presence of unwanted particles is triggered by a change in water pressure that causes the water to flow faster or reverse directions. The most common sources of discolored water at the tap are from damaged or recently-replace water pipes, build-up of sediment or iron in a hot water tank and/or reversal of flow in water pipes caused by a water main break, routine hydrant flushing by the water department, or use of a large amount of water quickly, such as in a fire.

Is This Water Harmful or Poisonous?

The simple answer is no. Likely the brown color in the water is from too much iron. Iron is a common, naturally-occurring metal in soil and in your drinking water. Just because it is not poisonous, we do not recommend that you drink it. Similarly, it is not recommended that the discolored water be used for laundry because the water can cause staining in fabrics that is not easily removed.



What Should I Do If My Water is Discolored or Brown?

Usually the water will clear up on its own in a few hours. Try running the cold water tap for about 20 minutes and see if the water clears. **If not, please call the office of Little Hocking Water Association and report it so we can check on the issue if we are not already aware.** Frequently, we can assist in clearing the brown water from the distribution system by flushing a hydrant in the area.



If you talk with your neighbors, and you are the only one experiencing discolored water, it may be a problem in your lines or hot water heater in the house. If the problem is in your hot water only, then you could need to flush or replace your hot water tank. Scale and rust in hot water tanks can sink to the bottom and cause discolored water or indicate that your tank is rusting through and needs replaced.

Contamination of Wells by PFAS

In 2002, the Little Hocking Water Association (Little Hocking/LHWA) first learned that PFOA from Dupont's Washington Works plant had contaminated Little Hocking's water supply and system. Since that time, Little Hocking has aggressively endeavored to make sure that neither PFOA nor any other PFAS was detected in the water delivered to Little Hocking's users. These efforts included 10 years of enforcement efforts in court, culminating in an on-going federal court-enforceable settlement.

Little Hocking has, over the years, sought to promptly update its users on what Little Hocking is doing to achieve and maintain water with non-detectable PFAS and to keep its members informed about regulatory, scientific, and public health developments. Below, LHWA provides a brief background on PFAS at Little Hocking and provides an update on important governmental and law enforcement developments, including regulatory updates on federal drinking water standards for six PFAS.

General Background on PFAS

PFAS is an abbreviation for perfluoro and polyfluoro-alkyl substances that include as many as 15,000 different known compounds. Little Hocking has known about PFOA, one type of PFAS, in its water system since 2002 and has, since then, actively fought to remove PFOA (and other PFAS when it learned of them) from its water system. Little Hocking is also aware that there are PFOA, GenX, and other related chemicals in its wellfield and there is a history of PFOA in the blood of many of its users. Since November 2007, a granular activated (GAC) plant has been operating at Little Hocking for the purpose of filtering PFOA from water before it enters Little Hocking's distribution system. The GAC plant operated throughout 2025 with the purpose of filtering water from our wellfield so the PFOA in the finished water (after treatment) is ***below reporting limits*** as it enters Little Hocking's distribution system. The fact that water is below reporting limits means that the water delivered to Little Hocking's users has remained below the drinking water standards USEPA recently set.

After many years of delay, on April 26, 2024, the USEPA finally adopted regulations called maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six PFAS in drinking water. MCLs are enforceable regulatory requirements for water utilities to ensure that water above an MCL will not be delivered to customers. These standards, according to USEPA, protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. These regulations became effective on June 25, 2024. Although there are other PFAS of potential concern, adoption of these regulations acknowledges what the Little Hocking Water System has known and maintained for many years – that there are health effects associated with the presence of PFAS in Little Hocking's water that will require treatment for a very long time.

Despite what appeared to be a trend toward more comprehensive PFAS regulation, in May 2025, USEPA announced its intent to "*rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations*" for four of these six currently-regulated PFAS. USEPA's stated reasoning for its intent to rescind is "*to ensure that the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation follow the legal process laid out in the Safe Drinking Water Act*". However, USEPA also announced that it will keep the current MCLs for PFOA and PFOS. At the time this CCR was completed, USEPA had begun the regulatory process to rescind the MCLs for PFHxS, PFNA, GenX, and the mixtures of these three PFAS plus PFBS.

Testing for PFOA

Chemours (formerly DuPont) began testing for one PFAS – PFOA – as part of Little Hocking’s granular activated carbon operations on October 16, 2007 – but only PFOA. Methods for analysis and reporting limits have changed over time. Once USEPA adopted approved methods for analyzing drinking water, Chemours had the water analyzed at a laboratory using USEPA-approved Method 537.1- but only had results reported for PFOA and GenX despite that fact that the method could analyze for 18 PFAS. Beginning in May 2022 and continuing throughout 2024, Chemours asked the laboratory to report 18 PFAS compounds (as opposed to only PFOA and GenX) at the standard reporting limit under Method 537.1, which is 2 ppt or less (instead of the previous 10 ppt). Since implementation of the new reporting limits, concentrations of PFOA in Little Hocking’s finished, treated water have remained *below the reporting limit of 2.0 ppt*.

On April 26, 2024, the US EPA published a final MCL of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA in the Federal Register, making it effective on June 25, 2024. **USEPA also published a final maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of zero for PFOA** to recognize that there is no safe level of exposure to PFOA.

Testing for GenX

In 2018, Little Hocking learned that an additional chemical (known as GenX) from the DuPont/Chemours Washington Works plant had reached Little Hocking’s wellfield. Chemours uses GenX as a replacement for PFOA. In March 2018, we advised users of the detection of GenX in the wellfield and explained what Little Hocking had been able to learn about the health risks that GenX may present. During 2025, testing continued to detect GenX in Little Hocking’s wellfield. Similar to the reporting limit for PFOA, in May 2022, Chemours directed the laboratory to report concentrations at a reporting limit of 2 ppt instead of 10 ppt. The GAC plant filtered water from our wellfield so the concentration of GenX in our water is *below the Method 537.1 reporting limits of 2 ppt* as it enters Little Hocking’s distribution system. This is despite the fact that the wellfield levels of GenX (before the water enters the GAC system) have *increased* over ten-fold since its initial detection. Both PFOA and GenX continued to be released from the Chemours’ Washington Works facility. Given the significant increase in concentrations over the last eight years, at the present time and for the foreseeable future, GenX is a proportionally greater threat than PFOA.

On April 26, 2024, the US EPA also published a final MCL of 10 ppt for GenX. USEPA also recognized that mixtures of perfluorinated chemicals could pose a greater health risk than an individual perfluorinated chemical. Therefore, **USEPA adopted an enforceable hazard index MCL of one and bundled GenX with three other PFAS chemicals.** The hazard index is also enforceable to ensure that mixtures of these chemicals above the hazard index are not present in water delivered by water utilities to their customers.

However, as explained above, USEPA has started the regulatory process to rescind the MCLs for four PFAS, including GenX. These actions increase the GenX and other PFAS risk to Little Hocking and its water users.

Testing for Other PFAS

In addition to PFOA and GenX, several other PFAS have been detected in water samples collected from Little Hocking's individual production well and in samples of the untreated water entering the treatment plant.

First, Little Hocking was notified that **effective March 27, 2023, Chemours (after years of Dupont/Chemours refusing to test for other PFAS) had directed the laboratory to report all 18 PFAS** analyzed by Method 537.1 from samples collected in the treatment plant before and after treatment. Sampling of water in 2023 (beginning on March 27, 2023 and continuing to the end of 2025) detected **two more PFAS in LHWA's untreated water**—PFHxA (C-6 acid) and PFHpA (C-7 acid). In 2025, concentrations of PFHxA have ranged from 60 ppt to 110 ppt, while concentrations of PFHpA have ranged from 78 ppt to 140 ppt. These concentrations were measured pre-treatment. In April 2023, USEPA issued a toxicological review for PFHxA indicating that exposure to PFHxA can cause liver, developmental, blood, and endocrine effects. No drinking water health advisory levels have been issued to date for PFHxA. No toxicological review has been performed by a federal agency for PFHpA.

Second, Chemours' testing has shown the presence of **four more PFAS in samples collected from Little Hocking's individual production wells. These include PFOS (C-8 sulfonic acid), PFBS (C-4 sulfonate), PFHxS (C-6 sulfonic acid) and PFNA (C-9 sulfonic acid).**

Finally, Little Hocking has had samples collected from its individual production wells as well as its untreated water and had those samples tested for an even broader range of PFAS. That testing showed **an additional four PFAS: PFBA (C-4 sulfonic acid), PFPeA (C-5 sulfonic acid), NMeFOSAA (C-8 sulfonamide derivative) and NEtFOSAA (C-8 sulfonamide derivative).**

To date, based on periodic testing and current PFAS loads being seen at the GAC plant, **none of the additional PFAS (detected through either Chemours' or LHWA's testing) were detected in LHWA's treated finished water as it enters the LHWA distribution system down to the reporting limit of 2 ppt.**

On April 26, 2024 USEPA published individual MCLs for PFOS at 4 ppt, PFHxS at 10 ppt, and PFNA at 10 ppt. In addition, USEPA included PFBS in the Hazard Index MCL. However, as explained above, USEPA has started the regulatory process to rescind the MCLs for four PFAS – including PFHxS, PFNA, GenX, and the mixtures of these three PFAS plus PFBS. These actions increase the GenX and other PFAS risk to Little Hocking and its water users.

PFAS-Related Litigation

In December 2023, the State of Ohio announced it had reached a settlement it had reached with Chemours and DuPont for PFAS damage to all of Ohio's natural resources. The settlement makes a total of up to \$100.0 million available to respond to the PFAS contamination covered by the settlement. All challenges to the adequacy of this settlement have been resolved without any change in the settlement amount or terms.

Little Hocking will use all available resources, including from a nationwide settlement with 3M, to protect the Little Hocking wellfield and its water users from exposure to any PFAS through Little Hocking water despite the current regulatory efforts to reverse certain PFAS regulation.

Led by its Board and management team, LHWA has committed substantial resources to continue its decades-long policy of staying ahead of PFAS threats to our Wellfield and other property, especially threats to the health of our members and other users.

When management became aware of the fact that Chemours was adding PFOA and GenX to the Ohio River in violation of Chemours' Clean Water Act permits, the Board authorized the legal team, including renowned experts, to investigate and intervene in a federal lawsuit filed by a West Virginia environmental organization. A strong preliminary injunction was granted in that federal case and when the injunction was appealed by Chemours, the legal team joined in the argument defending the injunction in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. The Board is committed to building on what it learned in this litigation to prevent further buildup of PFAS in the Wellfield.

This recent litigation grew out of LHWA's 2025 research into United States and international PFAS developments, including both the on-going growth of GenX in our wellfield and the emergence of other PFAS being released from Chemours' Washington Works plant, just 1300 feet across the Ohio River from the Wellfield and upstream from the areas where the Little Hocking wells draw in river water. The research has included legal and investigative developments in North Carolina, where North Carolina's state and local governments are taking aggressive action to protect water users from emerging PFAS-related health threats. LHWA's Board and management actions will continue to focus on both cutting off the growth of PFAS in the Wellfield and treating the PFAS that is already in the Wellfield. LHWA is constantly reviewing the research on possible treatments that can supplement or replace the current GAC treatment technology, which was put in place 20 years ago.

While executing these PFAS-related actions, the Board and management are simultaneously and proactively monitoring other potential pollution threats to the Wellfield. For example, LHWA regularly tests for and monitors any impacts injection wells may have on the LHWA water supply.

Our Promise

Since many of our water users historically have high levels of C8 in their blood and the chemical remains in the blood for a long time, Little Hocking's position remains there should be ***no detectable level*** of PFOA, GenX, or other PFAS chemicals in its water after GAC filtration. Little Hocking will continue to do all it can to prevent any detectable contamination from entering the finished water and will continue to report developments related to these chemicals.



Little Hocking
Water Association, Inc.

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