

SWTR Turbidity Exceedance Template

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Litchfield Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness), caused by suspended particles. This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples for November & December 2025, showed that 17 percent and 18 percent of turbidity measurements were over 0.3 turbidity units. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 0.3 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are 0.25 units.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.** We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

A problem occurred in November 2025, with the treatment system at the water plant. The RAW water turbidity from Lake Yeager averages around 8.0 NTU and can be as low as 5.3 NTU. During the period of the exceedance the turbidity coming into the plant was as high as 13 NTU at one point. The turbidity returned to normal levels with a couple of spikes over the next few days making it very difficult to optimize chemical feeds to remove the turbidity to compliance levels. We have cleaned the Claricones and work will begin on the Deceleration Filters soon.

For December 2025, for a brief period of time, the pH in the Claricones rose to a level where the Raw water was being softened. At the time this took place, the water system was still using Free Chlorine for disinfection in the distribution system. When the Chlorine was added to the water as it left the plant, it lowered the pH enough that the hardness in the water caused the turbidities to increase above the 0.3 threshold for a brief period. We are now using Chloramines for disinfection. Further, we're changing chemicals to control the pH in the Claricones.

For more information, please contact Dan Held, Interim Water Superintendent at (217) 324-2250, at watersupt@cityoflitchfieldil.com or 4303 IL. Rte. 16 East, Litchfield, Illinois 62056.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Litchfield.

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