

**COWEN PSD**  
**WV3305103**  
**Consumer Confidence Report – 2026**  
**Covering Calendar Year – 2025**

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affects drinking water quality or if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any regularly scheduled water board meeting held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of each month at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Cowen Water Office, 7017 Webster Road** or call TERRY E. WAYNE at 304-226-3541.

Your water comes from Surface water:

Source Name	Source Water Type
INTAKE-GAULEY RIVER	Surface water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 infections. 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 (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 sources water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.

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.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system has an estimated population of 3098 and is required to test a minimum of 3 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

**Water Quality Data**

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

## Terms & Abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

**Non-Detects (ND):** lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per Year (mrem/yr):** measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Monitoring Period Average (MPA):** An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

### Testing Results for: COWEN PSD

Regulated Contaminants	Facility Name	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	TREATMENT PLANT	3/3/2025	0.0186	0.0186	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE	TREATMENT PLANT	3/3/2025	0.49	0.49	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE	TREATMENT PLANT	3/3/2025	0.3	0.3	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRITE	TREATMENT PLANT	3/7/2022	0.45	0.45	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Collection Date	Highest LRAA Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	4016 ERBACON RD,	2025	40	71 - 71	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

	BECKWITH PRV							
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	BOLAIR BPS	2025	37	58 - 58	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	4016 ERBACON RD, BECKWITH PRV	2025	54	85 - 85	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	BOLAIR BPS	2025	46	69 - 69	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90TH Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2025	0.101	0 - 0.134	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2025	1.6	0 - 2.6	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. COWEN PSD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact COWEN PSD and TERRY E. WAYNE at 304-226-3541. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

COWEN PSD completed lead tap sampling in 2025 the results are available for review and can be accessed at <http://wvdwv.gecsws.com/>.

COWEN PSD has prepared a service line inventory identifying service line materials throughout the water distribution supply. The most up to date inventory is located at **Cowen Water Plant**. By November 1, 2027, our water system must develop an updated initial inventory, known as the "baseline inventory" and it must include each service line and identified connector that is connected to the public water distribution system.

Our water system identified **no lead, no galvanized downstream of lead** service lines in our inventory. All service lines have been identified.

If you have any questions about our inventory or if you would like information about our service line replacement plan, please contact TERRY E. WAYNE at 304-226-3541.

**Source Water Assessment and Protection**

When required by West Virginia State law, COWEN PSD maintains a comprehensive **Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)** that is updated every three years and reviewed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH). For systems utilizing surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI), SWPPs provide a detailed strategy for protecting intake areas and the surrounding Zone of Critical Concern.

Because these types of sources are open to the environment, they generally have a higher susceptibility to contamination. This susceptibility rating does not mean your water is contaminated; rather, it indicates that conditions exist which could impact the source water if a release occurred due to the sensitive nature of the intake area. A public version of our current Source Water Protection Plan (if applicable) or further information regarding our specific source susceptibility is available for review at our office during normal business hours or by contacting TERRY E. WAYNE at 304-226-3541. A Source Water Assessment may previously have been completed to identify potential sources of contamination and the susceptibility of our water source. You can view these historical assessment reports online at the WVBPH website: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/swap/search.cfm>.

For more information on source water protection and to learn how you can help protect drinking water sources, visit the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/how-can-you-help-protect-source-water>.

Chlorine/Chloramines Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units
12/1/2025 - 12/31/2025	2.00000	MG/L	2.40000	MG/L

**AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available.

If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Dalton Hosey at 304-226-3104.

Total Organic Carbon Lowest Month for Removal	Facility Name	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	INTAKE-GAULEY RIVER	7/7/2025	1.8	0 - 1.8	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

Analyte	Facility Name	Highest Value	Unit of Measure	Month Occurred
Turbidity	TREATMENT PLANT	0.28	NTU	November

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED URANIUM	9/8/2025	0.191	0.191	PCI/L	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	9/8/2025	0.751	0.751	pCi/L	0	0	Erosion of natural deposits

**Turbidity**

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	NO	0.28	November	TREATMENT PLANT	Yes

**Total Organic Carbon**

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

TOC	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	7/7/2025	1.8	0 - 1.8	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

<b>Secondary Contaminants-Non Health Based Contaminants- No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established.</b>	<b>Collection Date</b>	<b>Highest Value</b>	<b>Range (low/high)</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>SMCL</b>
NICKEL	3/3/2025	0.5	0.5	UG/L	0
SODIUM	3/3/2025	9.5	9.5	MG/L	20

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

<b>Fed Rep ID</b>	<b>Compliance Period</b>	<b>Violation Type</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Actions Taken by Water System</b>
773471	3/1/2025	FAILURE TO SUBMIT SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN	RPT	CHLORINE	The violation was due to paperwork not submitted timely. There was no health issue to the public.	Notice was sent to all customers & it was put in the newspaper.

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*If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Terry Wayne at 304-226-3541.*

**Additional Required Health Effects Language:**

Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Testing Results for: Cowen Public Service District**

Your CCR is available at <https://cowenpsd.com/ccr1>. To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact us at the phone number above.