



WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2025

JUNE 2026

WATER PLANT AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS TO-DATE

In 2024, Benton Charter Township was awarded a \$20 million grant from the State of Michigan.

We are pleased to announce that all of our lead service lines have been verified and replaced in Benton Charter Township.

- We were also able to replace water main loops at the intersections of Nickerson and M139 and North Fair and Territorial.
- A fourth membrane filter skid was installed at the water treatment plant and that increased our firm capacity from three million to four.
- Construction on the new one million gallon and the 500,000 gallon water storage tanks are expected to be completed by October of this year.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information about the quality of the drinking water produced by the Benton Charter Township Water Treatment Plant during the 2025 calendar year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE).

We welcome this opportunity to provide you with the information about your water in this report which is prepared and distributed annually. Questions regarding this report can be directed to the Benton Charter Township Water Plant.

Water source

Your water comes from Lake Michigan, an excellent raw water source. Lake Michigan water flows through an off shore intake structure and pipeline to a shore well pump station where the water is screened to remove the largest particles. Pumps at the shore well station transfer the untreated raw water to the treatment plant. At the treatment plant the raw water is filtered through membrane microfiltration units and sodium hypochlorite, which contains chlorine, is applied for disinfection. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant because of its effectiveness, cost, and

availability. Fluoride is also added for dental protection. After filtration, the treated water enters the storage reservoir from which another set of pumps transmits the finished tap water through the distribution system to the community.

Water treatment

The Township's Water Treatment Plant uses micro-filtration to filter the water and sodium hypochlorite (bleach) as a disinfectant. The filter modules are capable of removing particles larger than 0.04 microns which includes Cryptosporidium, Giardia Cysts, bacteria, and many other microorganisms. In comparison, a human hair ranges

in size from 17 – 181 microns. The sodium hypochlorite deactivates microorganisms that are small enough to pass through the filter pores.

Maintenance at the water plant is a continuous exercise. There are many parts, and pieces of equipment that make up the different processes. Individual parts and processes include things like: valves, valve actuators, chemical feed pumps, neutralization pumps, air compressors, and monitoring instruments like gauges and level indicators. All this equipment has an expected useful life which we try to prolong with preventive maintenance. Our Capital Improvement Plan guides us on when to repair/replace more expensive items and how to budget for them.

Distribution system

The Township has over 80 miles of water mains ranging in size from 4" to 20". There are 1,100 valves throughout the system and 704 fire hydrants. BCT serves over 2300 residential households and over 500 commercial customers with meter sizes ranging from ¾" to 8".



← Benton Charter Township Water Treatment Plant

↓ Benton Charter Township Raw Water Pump Station



LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Information about lead

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. The Benton Charter Township Water Treatment Plant 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 at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

How lead gets into drinking water

Lead is not present in the BCT Water Plant treated water when the water is pumped from the plant into the distribution system. Lead can enter drinking water, when

plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, releasing the lead into the water. The most common source of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures, and plumbing with lead solder. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older communities. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder. Homes built before 1986 to 1988 are more likely to have pipes, plumbing fixtures, and solder containing lead than newer homes and homes with updated plumbing fixtures and piping.

In 2019 Benton Charter Township conducted a preliminary Distribution System Materials Inventory (DSMI) study based on available info to ensure that distribution system components and service lines are properly identified and inventoried.

Benton Charter Township is pleased to report that work has begun to verify the remaining unknown service lines, replace all remaining 28 lead service lines, and verify other randomly selected homes to ensure existing records are accurate in the township. The contract was awarded to B&Z Company of Benton Harbor, and this work is on schedule to be completed by the end of October of this year. If you are contacted by the township water staff or B&Z for inspection or replacement work, please respond promptly.

Monitoring and reporting to EGLE requirements

The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies of this report are available at the Benton Charter Township Hall.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Benton Charter Township Board Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact the Benton Charter Township Water Treatment Plant at 269-925-4057.

For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at www.epa.gov/safewater or the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) website at www.michigan.gov/egle.

PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, sometimes called PFCs, are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. PFAS have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as an emerging contaminant on the national landscape. For decades, they have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. They are still used today. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples from the general U.S. population. These chemicals are persistent, which means they do not break down in the environment.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and

Energy (EGLE) has coordinated a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water supplies for PFAS. EGLE is taking this precautionary step to determine if public health actions are needed.



PFOS, or perfluorooctane sulfonate, is a synthetic chemical belonging to the broader group of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). It's known for its persistent nature in the environment and has been linked to various health concerns. PFOS is commonly found in firefighting

foam, non-stick cookware, and food packaging, among other products. It has been detected in drinking water sources and has been associated with potential health risks, including developmental, reproductive, and immune system effects.

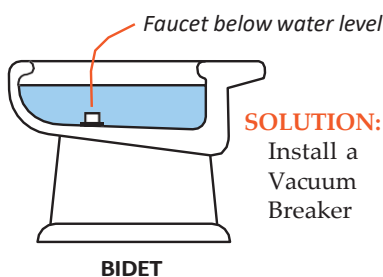
For 2024, PFOS was not detected and PFOA was detected at 2ng/L. The 2ng/L of PFOA is well below the limit of 8ng/L. (1ng/L is equal to 1 part per trillion.)

If any resident has additional questions regarding this issue, the State of Michigan Environmental Assistance Center can be contacted at 800-662-9278. Representatives may be reached to assist with your questions Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Also available is the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website: www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse

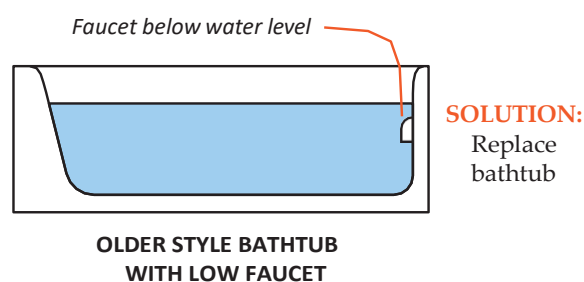
CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOWS

- A cross connection can be described as a connection or arrangement of piping through which backflow of non-potable water could enter directly into the public drinking water supply.
- Backflow is a reversal of flow in a public supply that allows water of questionable quality, contaminants, and wastes to enter the distribution system.
- There are two types of backflows: backsiphonage and backpressure.
Backsiphonage can occur during water main breaks or during firefighting/hydrant flushing activities.
Backpressure can occur if a pump starts and creates a higher pressure area than the downstream pressure.
- Both types of backflows are real concerns for water operators and can occur in commercial and residential plumbing.

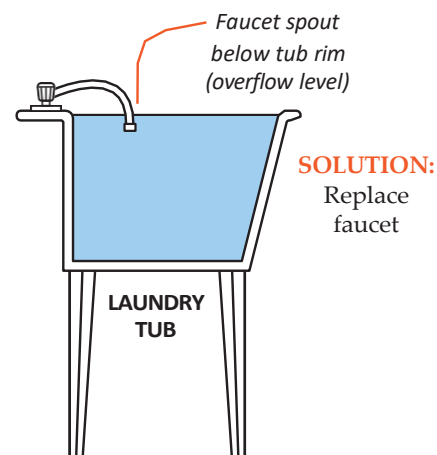
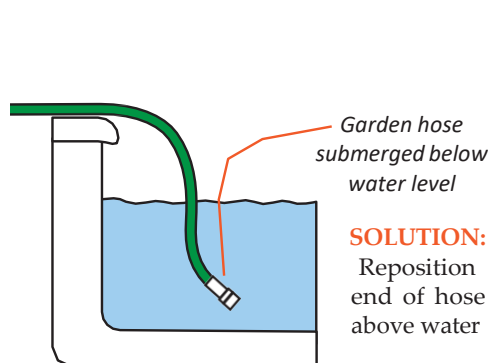
Common cross connections resulting in backflow:



SOLUTION:
Install a Vacuum Breaker



SOLUTION:
Replace bathtub



SOLUTION:
Replace faucet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sources of drinking water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from Lake Michigan, a surface water. 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 and their presence in water

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).

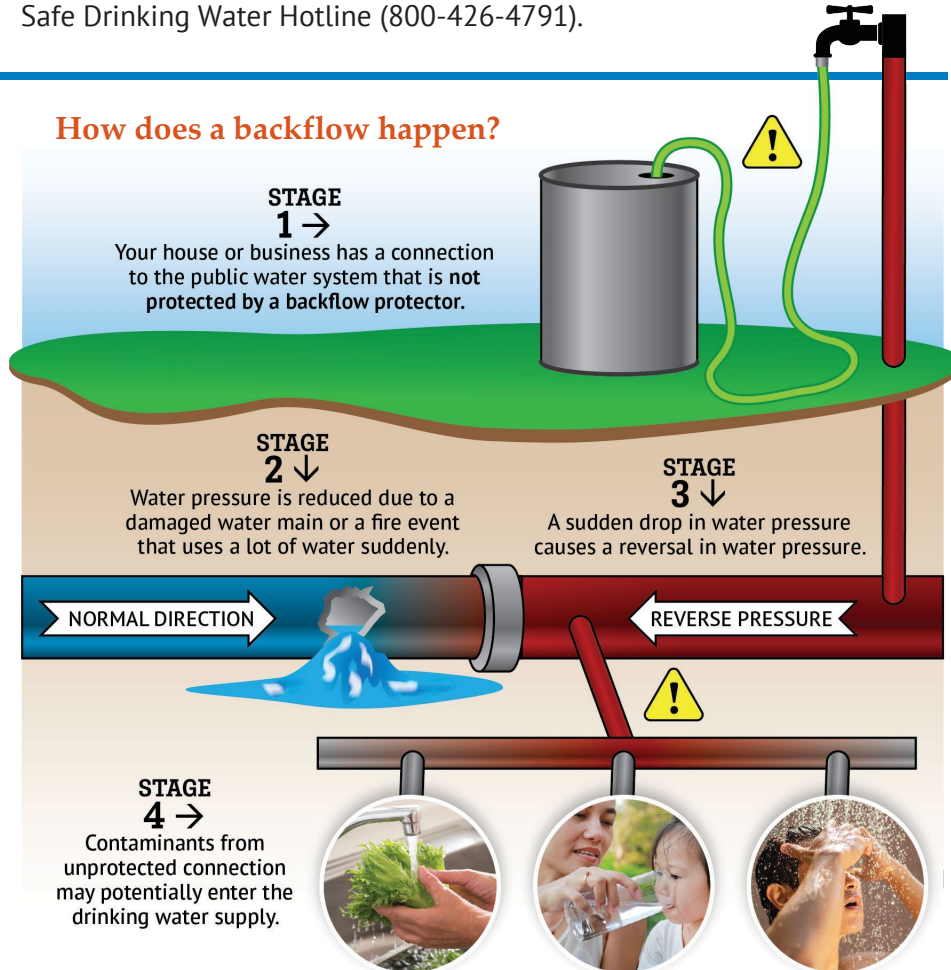
Vulnerability of sub-populations

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 systems 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).

Contaminants that may be present in source water

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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 agriculture and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- 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.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.



TYPES OF WATER PIPES

GALVANIZED



Galvanized steel pipes are a dull, silver-gray color.

- Magnet test: a strong magnet will typically cling to galvanized pipes.
- Scratch test: scratching the surface with coin will not show a discernible change of color.

COPPER



Copper pipes are the color of a copper penny.

- Magnet test: a strong magnet will not cling to copper.
- Scratch test: scratching the surface will reveal a bright copper color, like a new penny.

PLASTIC



Plastic pipes are typically a white, rigid plastic.

- Plastic pipes are joined to water supply piping with a clamp.

LEAD



A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin.

- Magnet test: a strong magnet will not cling to lead pipes.
- Scratch test: scratching the surface will reveal a shiny silver color.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table on the facing page lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2024. The State allows the monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old. Chlorine is a monthly average. TTHM and HAA5 are sampled quarterly with the results reported as “Running Annual Averages” (RAA).

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED ON THE FACING PAGE

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 a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

ppt: Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.

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

PPM AND PPB COMPARISONS

Parts per million and parts per billion are units used to measure the concentration of a substance in water. One part per million equals 1000 parts per billion. Following are some examples that illustrate how small a ppm and ppb actually are.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as:

- 1 inch in 16 miles
- One penny in \$10,000
- 32 seconds out of a year
- 1 drop of water in a washing machine

One part per billion (ppb) is the same as:

- 1 inch in 16,000 miles
- One penny in \$10,000,000
- 3.2 seconds out of 100 years
- 1 drop of water in a swimming pool

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP WATER DATA

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG ⁵ or MRDLG	Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS:							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.03	N/A	2025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.07	N/A	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.61	N/A	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium ¹ (ppm)	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
PFOA (ppt)	8	N/A	2	N/A	2025	No	Industrial discharge and/or pollution, firefighting foams, landfills, and chemical spills.
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS:							
TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	70.3	23 - 90	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	39.6	14.3 - 61	2025	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine ² (ppm)	4	4	1.08	0.86 - 1.21	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Inorganic Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG ⁵	Your Water	Range of Results	Year Sampled	# of Sites Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead ³ (ppb)	12 ppb	0 ppb	12 ppb	0.0 - 160 ppb	Jan-Jun 2025	4	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings & fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.2 ppm	0.0 - .08 ppm	Jan-Jun 2025	0	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings & fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead ³ (ppb)	12 ppb	0 ppb	1 ppb	0.0 - 7 ppb	Jul-Dec 2025	0	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings & fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.4 ppb	0.0 - 0.05 ppm	Jul-Dec 2025	0	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings & fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG ⁵	Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANT SUBJECT TO TREATMENT TECHNIQUE:						
Turbidity (NTU)	TT= 1 NTU ⁴ TT=percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	0	0.05 NTU 100%	0.02 - 0.08 NA	2025	Soil Runoff

NOTES

- Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.
- The chlorine level detected, "Your Water", was calculated using a running annual average. The RAA is calculated quarterly using monthly averages for the last 12 months.
- 90 percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for your water.
- 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU), and samples for turbidity must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTUs in at least 95 percent of the samples in any month. 100% of the samples were below the TT value of 1. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.07. Any measurement in excess of 5 is a violation.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) means the of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin or safety.



1725 Territorial Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Benton Charter Township

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific analytes on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During January 1 to June 30, 2025, we did not monitor for Water Quality Parameters (WQP1) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water at this time. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

The table below lists the analytes we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for this analyte, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date we will collect follow-up samples.

Analytes	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken between	Date next set of samples were taken
WQP* Distribution System	3 samples/ quarter	0	January 1 to June 30, 2025	July 16, 2025
WQP* Point of Entry	1 sample/ every two weeks	0	January 1 to June 30, 2025	July 16, 2025

**WQP are a group of analytes that are indicators of corrosivity. They can include pH, alkalinity, calcium, conductivity, temperature, sulfate, chloride, and orthophosphate.*

What happened? What is being done? We failed to take and analyze samples for all of the required parameters within the required sampling periods. Monitoring of Water Quality Parameters (WQPs) is an essential part of a corrosion control treatment program and is used to evaluate the potential aggressiveness of water on plumbing and fixtures. Sampling of WQPs is required to safeguard public health. We will continue to work with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

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.

For more information, please contact: Cathy Yates, Supervisor, Benton Harbor Township
1725 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022
Email: cyates@bentonchartertownship-mi.gov
Phone: (269) 369-6819

Water Plant Operators:

NAME & CERTIFICATION

Loren Johnson, F-2
Paulvin Junqu, F-4P
Miah Fannon, F-4P
Calvin White, F-4P

Distribution System Operators:

NAME & CERTIFICATION

Mike Baldwin, S-1
Chuck Wutzke, S-3
Brennan Bittner, S-4
Beau Wutzke

CONTACT INFORMATION

Benton Charter Township Water Plant

waterplant@bentonchartertownship-mi.gov
(269) 925-4057

Benton Charter Township Hall General Water Service and Billing Information

1725 Territorial Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-0616