elco Annual Water Quality Report

2026 Annual Water Quality Report (2025 Data) for East Larimer County Water District (PWSID C00135233) **April 2026**

Office Hours and Location

The ELCO office is located at 232 South Link Lane, Fort Collins, Colorado and is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number is 970-493-2044.

Emergencies

Customers in need of emergency service can call 970-493-2044 after regular office hours. Emergency calls are routed to an answering service which can dispatch on-call personnel.

For Your Information

This report and other important information about ELCO Water District can be found on the District's website. The address is: **www.elcowater.org**

If you have any questions about information contained in this report or the services provided by ELCO Water District please contact Josh Meck at 970-493-2044. You are also invited to attend any regularly scheduled meeting of the District Board. Directors hold their meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the offices of ELCO Water District, 232 South Link Lane.

printed on recycled paper.

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact Josh Meck at 970-493-2044 with any questions or for public participation opportunities that may affect water quality.

Please see the water quality data from our wholesale system(s) (either attached or included in this report) for additional information about your drinking water.

General Information

All 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 the 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)*** or by visiting ***epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water***.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

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:

- ***Microbial contaminants:*** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ***Inorganic contaminants:*** 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:*** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- ***Radioactive contaminants:*** 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. We are 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

Continued next page...

Lead in Drinking Water ...

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 Josh Meck at 970-493-2044. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at ***epa.gov/safewater/lead.***

Service Line Inventory

New state and federal laws require us to inventory all water service lines in our service area to classify the material. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main, likely in the street, into your home or building. If you would like to view a copy of our service line inventory or have questions about the material of your service line, contact ***Josh Meck*** at ***970-493-2044.***

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may have provided us with a ***Source Water Assessment Report*** for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report please visit ***wqcdcompliance.com/ccr.*** The report is located under "*Guidance: Source Water Assessment Reports*". Search the table using our system name or ID, or by contacting Josh Meck at 970-493-2044. The ***Source Water Assessment Report*** provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that ***could*** occur. It ***does not*** mean that the contamination ***has or will*** occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed below. Please contact us to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Quality Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day. Our groundwater drinking water sources, if any, are located in LARIMER county near our water system.

ELCO Water Sources

Sources (Water Type - Source Type)	Potential Source(s) of Contamination
Purchased from CO0162321 (Surface Water-Consecutive Connection) This is an emergency connection with the City of Greeley ONLY and no water was received from this source in 2025. **Purchased from CO0135718 SOLDIER CANYON WATER TREATMENT PLANT (Surface Water-Consecutive Connection)**	There is no SWAP report, please contact Josh Meck at 970-493-2044 with questions regarding potential sources of contamination

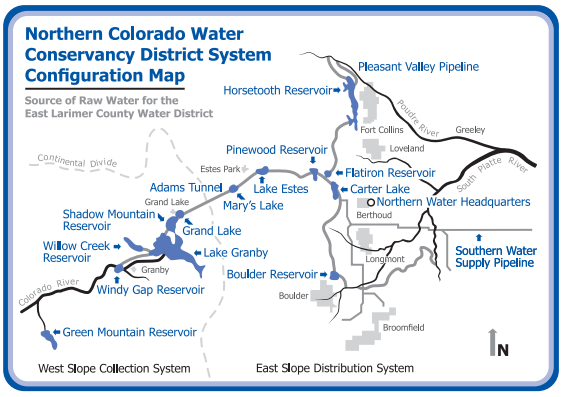
Where does ELCO water come from?

ELCO receives treated water from the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Plant (SCWTP), located at the base of the Soldier Canyon Dam on Horsetooth Reservoir. Water treated at the SCWTP comes directly out of Horsetooth Reservoir and the Poudre River through the Pleasant Valley Pipeline. Once water rights owned or controlled by the District have been converted from agricultural to municipal use, it is expected that half of the District's water will be diverted from the Poudre River. Elco's water distribution system is also connected to the City of Fort Collins Water Treatment Plant (CFCWTP), which is adjacent to the SCWTP, and can receive a blend of water from SCWTP and the CFCWTP.

SCWTP is owned and operated by the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority (SCWTA), which is jointly administered by ELCO, North Weld County Water District and Fort Collins-Loveland Water District. These three water districts all receive water from SCWTP and supply water to customers in all or parts of the towns and adjacent rural areas of Fort Collins, Windsor, Eaton, Ault, Severance, Timnath, Pierce and Nunn as well as Sunset Water District and portions of the Northern Colorado Water Association. Approximately 150,000 residents of northern Colorado receive their water from SCWTP.

Water in Horsetooth Reservoir originates as snow in the upper reaches of the Colorado River basin. Snowmelt is collected in reservoirs on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains and diverted through a series of tunnels and canals for use in northeastern Colorado.

Horsetooth Reservoir is part of the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project, the largest trans mountain diversion project in the state. The C-BT project is administered by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The Conservancy District oversees the delivery of water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses to almost 1.5 million acres of northeastern Colorado. The map below illustrates the location of some of the reservoirs and canals used by the Conservancy District to deliver C-BT water to the Front Range. Additional information about the Conservancy District can be found at ***www.ncwcd.org***.



Our Water Source(s): The system's sources of water are from Horsetooth Reservoir and the Cache La Poudre river

Is ELCO's water hard or soft?

Many industrial and domestic water users are concerned about the hardness of their water. Manufacturers of dishwashers and washing machines sometimes recommend settings that depend on the hardness of water. Hard water requires more soap and synthetic detergents for home laundry and washing, and contributes to scaling in boilers and industrial equipment. Calcium and magnesium dissolved in water are the two most common minerals that make water "hard".

The hardness of water is referred to by two types of measurements: grains per gallon and milligrams per liter (mg/l). The water supplied by ELCO has a hardness of approximately 35 mg/l or 2 grains per gallon. The following table shows that ***ELCO water would be classified as "soft water".***

Water Hardness Scale

Grains per Gallon	Millgrams per Liter (mg/l)	Classification
0 - 4.3	0 - 75	Soft Water
4.3 - 8.8	75 - 150	Moderately Hard Water
8.8 - 17.5	150 - 300	Hard Water
Over 17.50	Over 300	Very Hard Water

Is there fluoride or chlorine in ELCO's water?

Small amounts of chlorine and fluoride are added to the water as it leaves the Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Plant. Chlorine is added to disinfect the water against any bacteria that may still be in the water. Fluoride is added to help reduce tooth decay.

Terms and Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

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

Health-Based – A violation of either a MCL or TT.

Non-Health-Based – A violation that is not a MCL or TT.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.

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 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 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.

Violation (No Abbreviation) – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation) – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.

Variance and Exemptions (V/E) – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation) – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Compliance Value (No Abbreviation) – Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Average (x-bar) – Typical value.

Range (R) – Lowest value to the highest value.

Sample Size (n) – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).

Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L) – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Not Applicable (N/A) – Does not apply or not available.

Level 1 Assessment – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

2025 Detected Contaminants

Water Quality Test Results for ELCO Water District

EAST LARIMER COUNTY WD routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires the District 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, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

Note: *Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.*

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System (ELCO Water District)

Contaminant Name	Time Period	Tap Sample Range (Low-High)	90th Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90th Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	06/14/2025 to 07/02/2025	0.0088 to 0.228	0.17	30	ppm	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	06/14/2025 to 07/02/2025	0 to 20.5	3.9	30	ppb	15	1	No	

Disinfectants Sampled in the Distribution System (ELCO Water District)

TT Requirement: At least 95% of samples per period (month or quarter) must be at least 0.2 ppm *or* If sample size is less than 40, no more than 1 sample is below 0.2 ppm
Typical Sources: Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfectant Name	Time Period	Results	Number of Samples Below Level	Sample Size	TT Violation	MRDL
Chlorine	All months in 2025	Lowest period percentage of samples meeting TT requirement: 100%	0	30	No	4.0 ppm

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System (ELCO Water District)

Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	32.02	23.4 to 42.2	16	ppb	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	47.1	18.6 to 65.2	16	ppb	80	N/A	No	
Chlorite	2021	0.4	0.37 to 0.42	3	ppm	1.0	.8	No	

Unregulated Contaminants

EPA has implemented the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA uses the results of UCMR monitoring to learn about the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to decide whether or not these contaminants will be regulated in the future. We performed monitoring and reported the analytical results of the monitoring to EPA in accordance with its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Once EPA reviews the submitted results, the results are made available in the EPA's National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) (epa.gov/dwucmr/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod) Consumers can review UCMR results by accessing the NCOD. Contaminants that were detected during our UCMR sampling and the corresponding analytical results are provided below.

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

All samples analyzed for the UCMR testing taken in October 2023, January 2024, April 2024,and July 2024, were found to be **"Non-Detect"**

Results submitted to the EPA can be found here: **https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder**

Search for ELCO Water by PWS on the left of the page; **CO0135233**

It is recommended to check the above website periodically, as there may be new results from other sample collections provided to the EPA.

More information about the contaminants that were included in UCMR monitoring can be found at: drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule-UCMR. Learn more about the EPA UCMR at: epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions

No Violations, Significant Deficiencies or Formal Enforcement Actions

All Information Below is from the Soldier Canyon Filter Plant (SCFP)

Please contact MARK KEMPTON at 970-482-3413 with any questions

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System

Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorite	2025	0.33	0.27 to 0.41	12	ppm	1.0	.8	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Total Organic Carbon (Disinfection Byproducts Precursor) Removal Ratio of Raw and Finished Water

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	TT Minimum Ratio	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Total Organic Carbon Ratio	2025	1.28	1.1 to 1.5	12	Ratio	1.00	No	Naturally present in the environment.
If minimum ratio not met and no violation identified, then the system acheived compliance using alternative criteria.								

Summary of Turbidity Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Contaminant Name	Sample Date	Level Found	TT Requirement	TT Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Month: April 2025	Highest single measurement: 0.043 NTU	Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	Month: December 2025	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT requirement for our technology: 100%	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	No	Soil Runoff

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2025	0.01	0.01 to 0.01	1	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Flouride	2025	0.58	0.58 to 0.58	1	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2,4-D	2025	0.07	0 to 0.2	3	ppb	70	70	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
2,4-D	2025	0.07	0 to 0.2	3	ppb	70	70	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Secondary Contaminants

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.

Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range (Low to High)	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Typical Sources
Sodium	2025	12	12 to 12	1	ppm	N/A

Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions

No Violations, Significant Deficiencies or Formal Enforcement Actions