



Dear Commercial Customer,

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) would like to welcome you to the community! We are excited you've chosen the Elk River area for your business and are committed to providing customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective electric and water services as a publicly owned, not-for-profit utility.

ERMU, nationally recognized by the American Public Power Association for reliability and energy efficiency, has recently partnered with Frontier Energy to offer commercial rebates and savings. This partnership helps us leverage top research and technologies for developing effective rebate programs.

To learn more about ERMU, utility infrastructure, our commercial rebate programs, or energy audits with Frontier Energy, please visit our website at ERMUMN.COM. If you have questions, please call us at 763.441.2020. We look forward to serving you!

Follow us on social media!

 @elkrivermunicipalutilities

 @ermu_mn

 Elk River Municipal Utilities

 @ERMU_MN

ELECTRIC RATES

Non-Demand Customers (Demands of less than 50kW)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$33.00/Month
Summer Energy Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$0.1367/kWh
Winter Energy Charge (Nov-May)	\$0.1149/kWh

Demand Customers (Demands of 50kW or greater)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$80.00/Month
Energy Charge	\$0.0735/kWh
Summer Demand Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$17.00/kW
Winter Demand Charge (Nov-May)	\$12.00/kW

Large Industrial Demand Customers (Primary voltage and demands of 1MW or greater)

Basic Monthly Electric Charge	\$125.00/Month
Energy Charge	\$0.0729/kWh
Summer Demand Charge (Jun-Oct)	\$16.50/kW
Winter Demand Charge (Nov-May)	\$11.50/kW

WATER RATES

1 Unit - 1000 Gallons; Winter Measurement Period - December – April Billing Cycles

1st Tier Unit Cost (0 - 110% of average winter usage)	\$2.12/Unit
2nd Tier Unit Cost (between 1st Tier and an additional 40,000 gallons)	\$3.79/Unit
3rd Tier Unit Cost (over 2nd Tier usage)	\$4.37/Unit
0.75" Meter Charge	\$12.76/Month
1.00" Meter Charge	\$14.20/Month
1.50" Meter Charge	\$17.04/Month
2.00" Meter Charge	\$22.70/Month
3.00" Meter Charge	\$49.66/Month
4.00" Meter Charge	\$68.10/Month
6.00" Meter Charge	\$99.31/Month
8.00" Meter Charge	\$134.78/Month
Seasonally or Permanently Installed Irrigation Meter Charge	\$22.70/Month

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

- No sprinkling allowed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Those with even numbered addresses may sprinkle before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on even numbered days.
- Those with odd numbered addresses may sprinkle before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on odd numbered days.

SEWER RATES

1 Unit = 1000 Gallons; Winter Measurement Period = December – April Billing Cycles

Average Monthly Winter Usage	\$6.24/Unit
Minimum Sewer Charge	\$14.35/Month
If No History, a Flat Rate is Applied*	\$32.55/Month

**(Or may be billed on actual usage)*

Industrial and Commercial users with higher than average strength waste will be charged using a formula which is based on waste strength and determined by the City of Elk River Waste Water Department.

WHERE AND HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS

- **Mail or Hand Deliver:** Elk River Municipal Utilities, 13069 Orono Parkway, PO Box 430, Elk River, MN 55330.
- **Drop Box Locations:** ERMU offers three convenient drop box locations. Outside our building entrance at 13069 Orono Parkway, outside our field services building at 1705 Main Street, and in the parking lot off Freeport Street near Ashley Furniture and the post office.
- **Pay by Phone:** Pay your bill through our automated payment line at **1.855.730.8706**.
- **Pay Online:** Make one-time or recurring payments through **SmartHub**, our online account management and payment portal. Visit MY ACCOUNT at **ERMUMN.com** for more information.
- **SmartHub's Auto Pay Program:** Set up automatic payments using your preferred method (credit, debit, checking, or savings) while still being able to view your itemized bill. Visit "My Account" at **ERMUMN.COM** for more information.

There is NO ADDITIONAL FEE to pay by phone, or online through our website.

There is up to a \$30 charge for returned checks in addition to any fees your bank may charge and the state allowed electronic processing fee.

BILLING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Elk River Municipal Utilities accepts cash, checks, credit/debit cards, and money orders as forms of payment. There is a \$30.00 charge for returned checks in addition to any fees your bank may charge.

Utility bills are due on the due date specified on the bill. ERMU will send a delinquency notice to the customer after the due date has expired and when payment in full has not been received. The notice will state our disconnection process. If the bill is not paid or our office is not contacted to have satisfactory payment arrangements made, no further notice will be given. If disconnected due to non-payment, payment to reconnect must be received by 3:00PM to be reconnected that day. There are no after-hours reconnects. There is a \$50.00 disconnection/trip charge for residential locations and \$150 for commercial locations. Checks are not accepted as form of payment for reconnection. For more information on our appeal process, please visit our website.

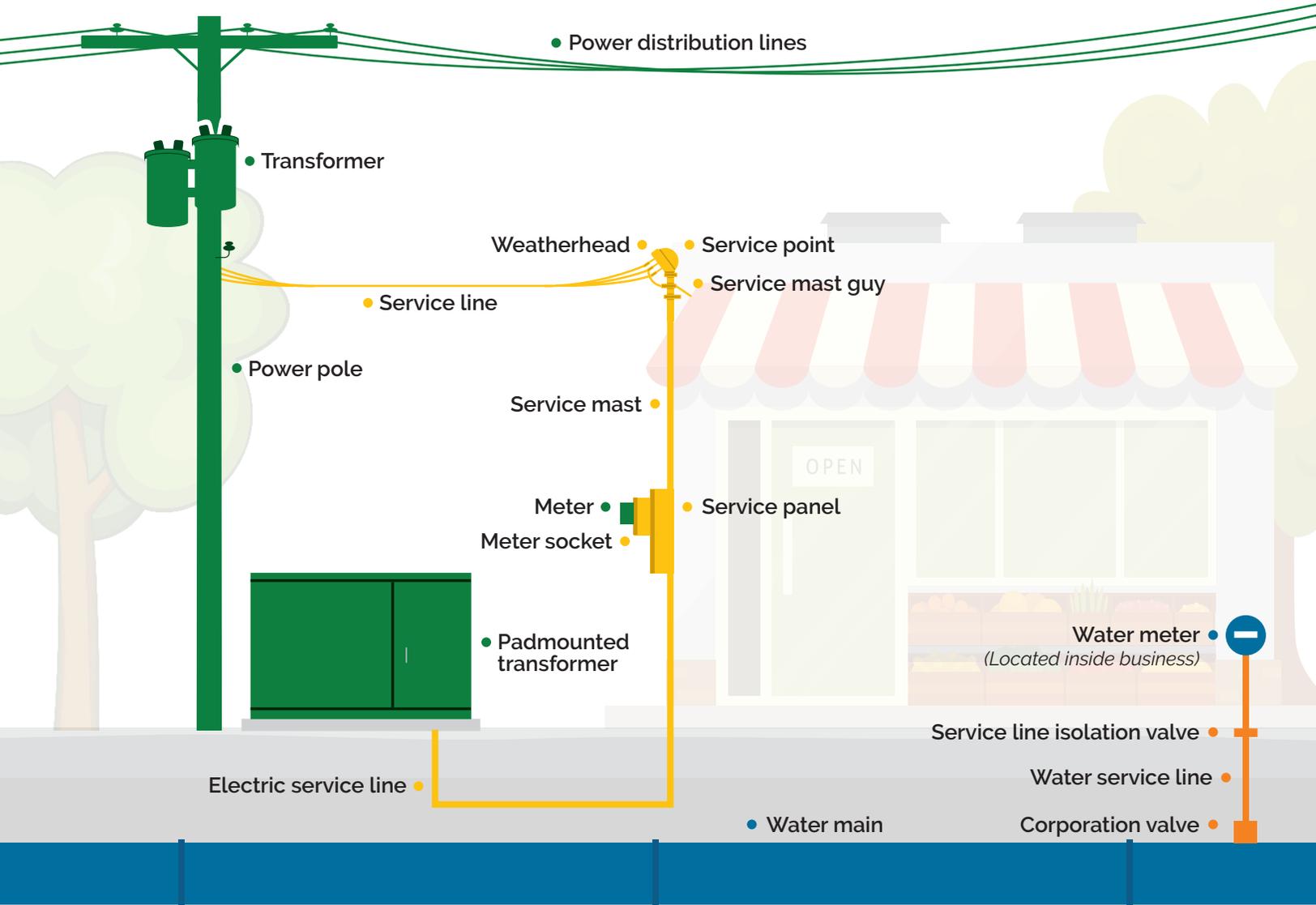
All customers are subject to ERMU's Customer Deposit Policy. If a deposit is required for the account, this bill is the receipt of the deposit. Deposits will be returned within 45 days of termination of service.

ERMU will donate credit balances of \$5.00 or less on closed accounts to the Community Aid of Elk River's heat assistance program.

Utility-Owned Equipment VS Commercial Customer-Owned Equipment

The illustration below helps explain equipment ownership and responsibility regarding maintenance and repairs. The utility is responsible for utility-owned electric equipment (green) and water equipment (blue), while customers are responsible for customer-owned electric equipment (yellow) and water equipment (orange). Customer-owned equipment should be repaired by a licensed tradesperson.

- ELECTRICAL
UTILITY OWNED
- ELECTRICAL
CUSTOMER OWNED
- WATER
UTILITY OWNED
- WATER
CUSTOMER OWNED



*This illustration depicts commercial service for overhead electric, underground electric, and water main utilities. **Please be aware of the type of service you receive in your business.** Some businesses also have private fire hydrants and private fire protection service lines which are customer owned. Customers should contact us with specific questions.*



Powering Your Business with **Renewable Energy**

Clean Energy Choice for Business provides Elk River Municipal Utilities customers with the opportunity to have **100%** of their electricity come from environmentally responsible, renewable sources. Commercial electric customers who participate are making a choice to support the environment as well as their community and its future.



EASY ENROLLMENT

- Contact Elk River Municipal Utilities at 763.441.2020 to enroll in the Clean Energy Choice for Business program.
- Participation is based on a calendar-year term.
- We can help you determine how this program will affect your monthly electric bill.



AFFORDABLE COST

- The program adds an incremental charge to the standard electric rate.
- As an example, a customer with usage of 10,000 kWh per month would pay an additional \$15 based on the following formula: $(10,000 \times [100\% - 25\%] \times \$0.02) = \$15$. See the back of this form for details.



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Convenient and affordable way to power your business with 100% renewable energy
- Meet your company's sustainability goals without investing in equipment
- Position your business as an environmentally responsible leader in the community

BECOME A SUSTAINABILITY LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY. ENROLL IN CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE TODAY!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is generated by resources that naturally replenish like wind, solar, bioenergy, and hydro.



**CLEAN ENERGY
CHOICE**

Where does the renewable energy for the Clean Energy Choice for Business program come from?

The renewable energy for the Clean Energy Choice for Business program is supplied by Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's renewable resources or MMPA's purchases from other utilities. *For more information on MMPA's renewable energy resources, please visit mmpa.org/sustainable-energy/overview/*

Is renewable energy provided directly to my business?

Electricity flows along the path of least resistance through the transmission and distribution system. It is impossible to know where the electricity supplying your business was generated. By participating in the Clean Energy Choice for Business program, renewable energy is being provided by MMPA equal to your business's energy usage.

What are Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and how are they verified?

Every kilowatt-hour of renewable energy created is assigned a unique REC number to ensure that each unit of renewable energy is accurately tracked. RECs are also known as "green certificates" or "renewable energy credits." The State of Minnesota uses RECs to track renewable energy generation and use. An independent third party selected by the State of Minnesota tracks the creation and retirement of RECs. Generation is metered to ensure the correct number of RECs are allocated to each renewable generation facility.

Am I committed to a contract term?

Yes. Participation in the Clean Energy Choice for Business program is based on an annual contract term. In return, the per-kWh surcharge is fixed for the same time period. You will be informed of any change in the per-kWh surcharge for the upcoming year by November 1, and you have until December 1 to inform us if you want to continue your contract in the new year.

How much does Clean Energy Choice for Business Cost?

An incremental charge of \$0.002 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is added to the standard electric rate. The charge is applied to all kWh in excess of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard, which is currently 25% of all electric sales. An example fee table is listed below.

Formula: (kWh per month (10,000 x [100%-25%]) x \$.002) = Clean Energy Choice Additional Surcharge

kWh per Month	Approximate Electric Charge	Clean Energy Choice Additional Surcharge
1,000	\$100	\$1.50
10,000	\$1,000	\$15
100,000	\$10,000	\$150



WHAT IS SMARTHUB?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, set up automatic payments, manage your use, and contact ERMU with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.

WHAT IS SMARTHUB'S AUTO PAY PROGRAM?

SmartHub's Auto Pay Program helps you save time, avoid service interruptions, and eliminate late fees by allowing you to set up automatic payments using your preferred method (credit, debit, checking, or savings) while still letting you view your itemized bill.



EASY PROGRAM SIGN UP

Existing SmartHub users can simply go to their account, select the Auto Pay Program option, and follow the prompts, while new users can create a SmartHub account using the QR code, then follow the prompts.



CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT METHOD

Set up your preferred secure payment method and let account management do the rest.

- Credit
- Debit
- Checking
- Savings



SAVE TIME & REDUCE STRESS

With SmartHub's Auto Pay Program, you will still be able to view an itemized bill each month, but you won't need to take time to schedule a payment. Rest assured, your bill will be taken care of on its due date.

New signups to SmartHub's Auto Pay Program will receive a one-time \$5.00 credit!



Elk River
Municipal Utilities

YEAR IN REVIEW
2025



CONNECTED TO PEOPLE



A Message from the General Manager

Connected. Committed. Growing. While reviewing our 2025 milestones for this Year in Review, these three words emerged as the theme. They reflect not only what matters to us and our customers, but also the progress ERMU made this year.

Connected to People - As always, connecting with the community remains a foundational aspect of our culture. In 2025, these connections took many forms: improving our customers' access to their utility information through our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project; participating in various community events such as Touch-A-Truck, Downtown Trick-or-Treat, the Sherburne County Fair parade, Elk River High School Homecoming parade; attending ISD 728's job fairs, and more. Connecting with those we serve remains our greatest reward.

Committed to Excellence - As an organization, our commitment to excellence continues to inspire me. In 2025, ERMU staff supported mutual aid efforts, volunteered as speakers and subject matter experts at training events, participated in numerous training programs, and served on state-level trade association boards. Our staff is committed to improving our knowledge, skills, and abilities to better serve our customers.

We also focused on inspiring the future of our industry by updating our scholarship program to support students interested in utility careers, educating young people at career fairs about the opportunities available in the utility industry, and hiring five interns to assist in the IT, GIS Mapping, Water, and Electric departments.

Growing with our Community - Growing with our community has been the most exciting aspect of 2025. We started the construction of our sixth electric substation and the planning of our ninth drinking water well and seventh water treatment plant. These projects will help support the projected growth in our service territory to ensure our customers continue to receive the exceptional service they have come to know from Elk River Municipal Utilities.

The year 2025 has been a time of connection, commitment, and growth. As we look to the future, ERMU remains dedicated to serving our community with pride and purpose.

- Mark Hanson, P.E., General Manager



"From planning to performance, the AMI project shows what our team can achieve when

all departments are working together. By combining expertise across ERMU, we've delivered tools that give customers better insights and control over their energy and water use and raised the standard of service for our entire community."

- Sara Youngs,
Administrations Director,
ERMU



"This project modernized our entire metering system. By integrating this advanced

technology, ERMU can achieve better service through better information, allowing customers to make usage decisions with near real-time data. Operationally, the AMI system helps streamline staff efforts by eliminating the need to travel across the service territory every month to gather data."

- Mike Tietz,
Tech. Services Superintendent,
ERMU

Smarter Connections with Advanced Metering



In 2025, ERMU completed substantial work on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project, upgrading electric and water meters across its service territory. Planning, coordinating, and delivering this project took the collective efforts of every department at ERMU, working to bring customers better account data and billing accuracy. Through ERMU's SmartHub portal, customers now have greater insight into their utility usage, better understanding of their habits, and an

enhanced ability to detect water leaks. This project aligns our community with the tools it needs to effectively manage consumption and conserve resources, and is a continuation of ERMU's focus on innovation, efficiency, and customer empowerment.

AMI in Numbers

From March 2024 to November 2025 ERMU and its contractors replaced:

13,283 Electric Meters
5,754 Water Meters

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Recognizing Leadership and Legacy at ERMU

ERMU demonstrates its commitment to excellence in the municipal utility field through the recognized efforts of its dedicated staff and leadership. At the 2025 Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) Annual Summer Conference, Scott Thoreson, recently retired Line Crew Foreperson, received the prestigious Honorary Lifetime Membership Award for his 32 years of service. Administrations Director Sara Youngs was honored with the Rising Star Award for her leadership, innovation, and dedication to continuous improvement.

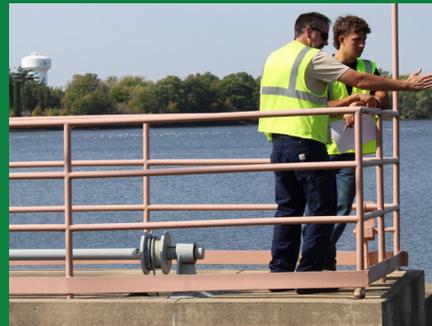
Further reinforcing ERMU's impact in the industry, General Manager Mark Hanson was elected to the MMUA Board of Directors, where he will support reliable, affordable, and sustainable utility services across Minnesota. These recognitions reflect ERMU's ongoing pursuit of operational excellence, professional development, and industry-leading service.



*Retired ERMU Line Crew Foreperson Scott Thoreson
ERMU Administrations Director Sara Youngs
ERMU General Manager Mark Hanson*

ERMU Invests in Future Utilities Leaders

Our organization is proud to commit to the next generation of utilities workers by providing hands-on learning experiences and financial support. By implementing an internship program and hosting job shadow days for high school students, ERMU offers real-world experience in electric, water, and communication fields. These opportunities are structured to inspire goals and foster career exploration for participants. Additionally in 2025, ERMU awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing linework and electrical engineering. With updated scholarship opportunities and continued student engagement, ERMU remains committed to supporting young people on their journey toward excellence in utilities roles.



ERMU Job Shadow Participants with Communications, Water, and Electric Departments



ERMU Scholarship Recipients with Commission Members



ERMU Interns

GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

A Future of Growth: ERMU's New East Substation

Elk River Municipal Utilities is investing in the future of our community with the construction of the new East substation, an initiative designed to allow the utilities to ensure the standard of service that customers expect. In 2019, staff recognized the need to add a substation to the system due to territory acquisitions and the projected rapid growth of residential and commercial development in the area. In October 2024, ERMU secured property from the City of Elk River to place the substation, setting the stage for this critical project to begin construction in 2025.

The new facility will strengthen voltage delivery, reduce energy losses, and improve service redundancies. For residents and businesses, this means even greater reliability, and the capacity to support new neighborhoods and commercial spaces.

Beyond capacity, the substation offers modern safety features, advanced equipment, and flexibility for future expansion with a double-ended design, allowing for the addition of a second transformer as demand grows.

This project benefits greatly from ERMU's Substation Apparatus Technician Jon Wadsworth. Jon was integral to the facility's design, and his presence on staff provides valuable expertise in daily operations. His experience in constructing substations directly contributed to approximately \$1 million in cost savings by reducing the need for contracted work. The substation is expected to be commissioned in September 2026, ensuring dependable service as our community continues to thrive.



*ERMU Substation Apparatus Technician
Jon Wadsworth*



The East substation is what is known as a step-down substation; it reduces the voltage at which electricity travels on the transmission system, usually 69 kV, to meet the voltage capacity of ERMU's distribution system, around 12 kV.

ERMU Studying Water System Expansion

ERMU's water system is also growing to keep pace with the new neighborhoods and businesses expected in the future. Having received approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to drill up to three new production wells, a feasibility study is helping to decide on timing, locations, costs, and infrastructure needs. These studies are driven by calculations from computer water modeling and daily operational oversight to make sustainable and cost-effective decisions. Each well is expected to provide up to 1,200 gallons of water per minute and average over 100 million gallons a year, ensuring clean, safe, reliable water for everyone as the city continues to grow.



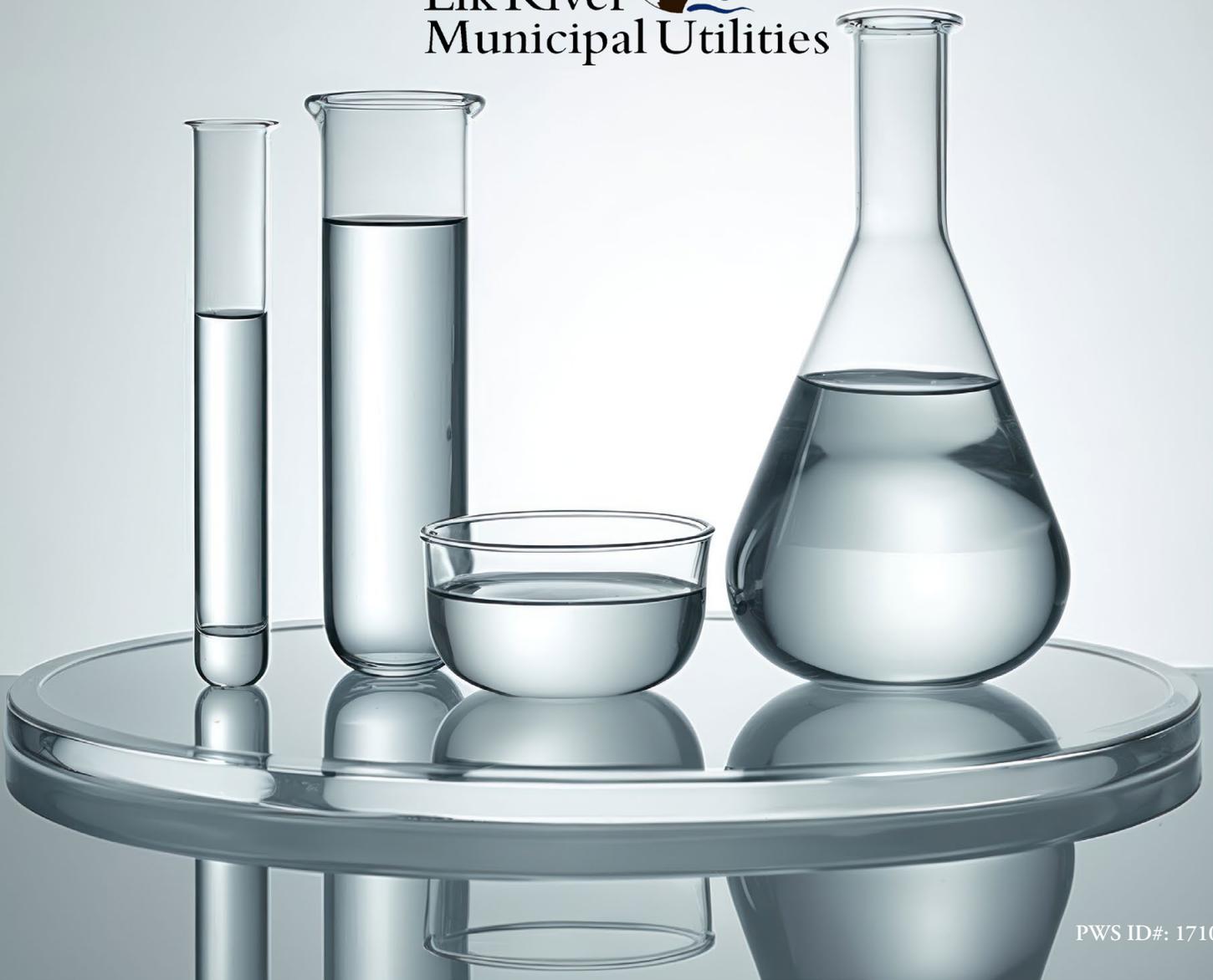
"Expanding a water system isn't just about pumping more water, it's about creating an effective network that balances meeting the demand of daily usage and lifesaving efforts like firefighting, while conserving an essential resource. That level of planning takes considerable time and effort for staff, but it's necessary for keeping our community in service and safe."

- Dave Ninow, Water Superintendent, ERMU

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024

Presented By 
Elk River
Municipal Utilities



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

ERMU wells are supplied by the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer. We maintain eight wells ranging from 225 to 454 feet deep, six wells have water treatment facilities that remove iron and manganese from the source water. There are four water towers, over 125 miles of water main, 1,334 hydrants and just under 3,000 valves in our system. In 2024, ERMU pumped over 841 million gallons of water. We are proud to serve over 5,800 water customers.

Important Health Information

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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.

Conservation

Check your irrigation system regularly and monitor your irrigation use. Overwatering is the biggest culprit for high water bills and the top use of water in Elk River. Using less water more often is the key. Water for 15 minutes per zone and then repeat as needed later in the day for 5 to 15 minutes. Roots need to absorb the water to help your lawn grow lush and green. Too much watering at one time forces water to move past the roots belowground or run into the road or a neighboring drain aboveground.



Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office, or you may search for "Elk River" at health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

Approximately 90 percent of our drinking water supply management area is considered nonvulnerable, while less than 10 percent is vulnerable. Our Wellhead Protection Plan includes measures to mitigate or prevent potential contamination.

It is important to seal unused wells and update records with the city and county. Unsealed wells act as direct pathways for contaminants to enter drinking water sources. Similarly, substances applied to the ground or in water can eventually percolate into drinking water sources in variable timelines, impacting its quality. Please handle chemicals and waste responsibly to protect our water supply.

If you are not using a well, or you discover an old, abandoned well, have it sealed. Open wells can impact an entire community's water supply if left unprotected. Please call our office if you have questions.

Should I be Concerned About What I'm Pouring Down My Drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report or any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) at (763) 441-2020 (Dave Ninow, Water Superintendent) To view this report online, visit ermumn.com/services/water/water-quality-report.

Reduced Water Pressure Culprits in Your Plumbing

Here is a list of potential causes of low water pressure. Please be sure to use caution and consult with a licensed plumbing professional when resolving any of these issues.

- 1. Water softener issue:** Bypass the water softener to test via valves.
- 2. Pressure reducer:** In higher-pressure areas (80+ pounds per square inch), these devices are required so appliances and in-home connections are less likely to leak. They can be adjusted to control pressure from the water system into your home plumbing. These devices can be a point of failure and close off water flow from time to time. Replacement requires a plumber.
- 3. Faulty or partially closed valve:** A valve in your system may have failed or isn't fully open.
- 4. Service line or curb stop valve issue:** There may be a service line leak or a problem with the outdoor curb stop valve.



Pressure Issue Culprit 2



Pressure Issue Culprit 1



Valve Construction

Substances That Could Be in 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:

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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which 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 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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. ERMU is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, resources are available through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), or contact ERMU at (763) 441-2020. For detailed information about lead in drinking water, including testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure, visit epa.gov/safewater/lead. You can also access the MDH's "Lead In Drinking Water" fact sheet at health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/contaminants/leadfactsht.pdf.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be found at <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, U.S. EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data is listed in the test results table.

PFAS and lithium are two contaminants of concern due to their potential adverse health effects. PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of man-made chemicals that can accumulate in the environment and human body, leading to health issues. Lithium, while a naturally occurring element, can also pose risks when present at elevated levels. The results of UCMR 5 sample collection and testing in 2024 showed no detection of PFAS or lithium contaminants in Elk River's drinking water system. Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) also conducted an independent round of testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in addition to the UCMR 5 testing. ERMU's independent testing also resulted in no detection of PFAS contaminants, further affirming the high standards of water quality in Elk River.

Detection of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time. A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions—infants, children, elderly, and people who are pregnant or have impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated or emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

For more information, visit:

- MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water: health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html
- Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4): health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html
- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule: epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule
- UCMR5 Program Overview Fact Sheet: epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf

In the past year, your drinking water may have been tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule; results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5) Data finder (epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder) allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available analytical results.

Public Meetings

The Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the ERMU Conference Room, 13069 Orono Parkway.



Test Results

We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.03	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	0.72	0.54–0.91	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.71	0.65–0.73	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2020	15.4	0	3.6	ND–3.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	8.3	4.40–8.30	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	1.30	ND–1.30	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	16.3	12.50–16.30	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Xylenes (ppm)	2023	10	10	ND	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.23	NA	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	1.37	NA	0/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2024	ND	ND	NA
Sodium ¹ (ppm)	2024	3.32	3.16–3.32	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	8.34	2.89–8.34	NA

¹In-home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).