



City of Erin

P.O. BOX 270
ERIN, TENNESSEE 37061



931-289-4108
Fax: 931-289-5436

2/7/26

Official Statement from the City of Erin

lperin@peoplestel.net

Although we have posted on our website and Facebook, we realize some customers may not have access. Some customers have been calling city hall, the Mayor, the City Recorder and the Water Superintendent, we have tried to answer your questions to the best of our ability.

The City of Erin is currently under a Water Conservation Advisory as seen on the TN Public Water System – Emergency Status Dashboard.

When we use the word “customer”, we are actually referring to all customers, both residential and industrial users as well as the nursing home, hospital and jail. ALL CUSTOMERS are treated the same.

One issue alone is not to blame for the water outage. Multiple factors play into this. The Erin water system is greatly affected by elevations, pressure, volume and demand on the system. Pressure is affected by volume. One affects the other. When you run water in your household that does affect your neighbor’s water if the system is low. When the temperature is extremely low, more water is used due to dripping faucets.

During cold weather, the cleaning of the basins and filters at the Water Treatment Plant happen more frequently due to the chemicals not reacting the same way as they do during the warmer weather.

Water System personnel are working diligently every day looking for issues within our system and will continue to do so.

We are pumping at maximum capacity, 1.3 million gallons per day – every day – 24 hours per day and will continue to do so until the system is fully restored.

As the temperatures rise, we will be able to gain more water in the tanks due to fewer customers dripping the faucets. But also, as the temperatures rise, we will be finding more customer leaks, and possibly leaks of our own.

The City of Erin is in daily contact with TDEC and has spoken with the Comptroller’s Office. TDEC is very professional, helpful and understanding to the situations across the State.



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TDEC has offered to help us in any way they can. They worked behind the scene to insure we received an adequate supply of bottle water to distribute to our customers. The City of Erin also was able to provide water to customers who wanted to fill containers.

Erin is now and has been buying supplemental water from Vanleer for about 30 years. As a temporary measure, Vanleer supplied an additional 30 to 60 gallons per minute flow. As of 2/6/26, Vanleer has experienced an issue and we are currently not able to receive any water from them.

City of Erin does normally sell water to Cumberland City and during this situation, Cumberland City valved off the water supply they receive normally from The City of Erin. Dover is currently selling water to Cumberland City as a temporary supply to portions of Cumberland City. This allows more water to reach the customers of the City of Erin's System.

Mayor Bailey said he is thankful to Cumberland City Mayor Phil Taylor for his assistance and understanding.

The tank which feeds the hospital and nursing home had gotten dangerously low and due to this, other sections of the system were then valved off to insure the hospital and nursing home maintained adequate water supply.

Areas that have been out of water have intermittingly been restored. Hwy 13 N and Hwy 49 E, the water is on and tanks are holding. Again, the tanks volume is based on customer use. The more water that is used, the less we have in the tanks.

January 25, 2026, the City of Erin did in fact grant permission for Synthetic Materials to draw from our water supply for a short period of time. At that time, the City of Erin did not have any water outages that we were aware of.

On January 27, 2026 at 10:55 PM, the water plant operator notified Water Superintendent Phillip Baggett to inform him of a large draw on the million-gallon tank. At that time, the water superintendent from the City of Erin began working on identifying where the issue was. The Plant Manager for Georgia Pacific was notified as per information supplied from Synthetic Materials. The representative from Georgia Pacific called back to explain they had a valve to blow out and it would take about 4 hours to repair. Once the repair was



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completed around 3:00 AM, which was about 4 hours, Synthetic Materials converted back to quarry water and shut down the connection to the City of Erin system.

During this 30-hour time frame, the volume in the million-gallon tank dropped 27 feet – BUT this includes all normal usage for residential and industrial customers for a total of about 421,000 gallons. The total usage was not strictly Georgia Pacific.

During this drop in volume, the water plant had to cut back production in order to backwash the filters and clean the basins. During the cleaning process, the plant used about 100,000 gallons. The cleaning times are increased during cold weather due to the chemicals not reacting the same as they do during the warmer weather.

The storage capacity for the City of Erin water system is a total of 2 million gallons of potable water. There are 6 storage tanks, 5 booster pumping stations, 245 miles of line in various sizes and 2,600 customers of our own.

The City of Erin is currently upgrading the transmission line from the water plant, building a new 2-million-gallon storage tank, and upgrades to the water plant. Once the critical infrastructure is upgraded, we will then be able to focus on the remainder of the system.