

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Utica – June 2009

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. Our water source is ***Lake Huron***.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **William Lang, Superintendent of Public Works at (586) 731-6110**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of monitoring in 2008.

Your source water comes from the lower Lake Huron watershed. The watershed includes numerous short, seasonal streams that drain to Lake Huron. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is a seven-tiered scale ranging from very moderately low to very high based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The Lake Huron source water intake is categorized as having a moderately low susceptibility to potential contaminant sources. The Lake Huron water treatment plant has historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards

If present, elevated levels of 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. The City of Utica is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

If you would like to know more about this report, please visit the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's website at www.dwsd.org or contact William Lang at (586) 731-6110, or you can email him at: langw@sbcglobal.net.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Key to Detected Contaminants Tables		
Symbol	Abbreviation for	Definition/Explanation
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
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.
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.
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.
ppb	Parts per billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts per million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
n/a	Not applicable	
>	Greater than	

Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2008 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap								
Fluoride	9/9/2008	ppm	4	4	1.15	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	9/9/2008	ppm	10	10	0.33	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	6/9/2008	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Feb-Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	80	16.2	6.6-31.9	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Feb- Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	60	8.5	4.3-12.7	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant (Total Chlorine residual)	Jan-Dec 2008	ppm	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.76	0.54-0.86	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2008 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.69 NTU	100%	no	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

2008 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	0 in entire year	no	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E.coli</i> or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E.coli</i> positive.	0 in entire year	no	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

2008 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap								
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2008	ppb	0	15	0 ppb	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2008	ppm	1.3	1.3	0 ppm	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Conataminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.				Erosion of natural deposits

2008 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.38	Erosion of natural deposits

Information and tables provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) ML S

What does this mean?

“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 Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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, 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 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 organics, 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 be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.”

“Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).”

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Please call our office at (586) 731-6110 if you have any questions about this report.

“We at the City of Utica Water Department work with Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to provide top quality water to every tap,” said William Lang, Superintendent of Public Works. “We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.”