

IN5237005

**Rensselaer Water Department**  
**2010 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

**Important information for the Spanish-speaking population**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad del aqua potable que usted consume. Por favor traduzcalo, o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien y pueda explicarle.

**Is our water safe?**

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of drinking water that we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about where the water that you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana standards. We are committed to provide you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

**Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDs or other kind of 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 has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants which are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Where does our water come from?**

We are a ground water system in which we have two wells. One well is located on North Matheson Street and one on West Wood Road. All city wells are drilled into the bedrock system of Sulrian and Devonian Carbonate Aquifer of the Muscatuck Group.

**Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA'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 as a result from urban runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water 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 storm water 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 the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottled water, which must provide the same level of health protection for public health.

***Water Quality Data***

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2010 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2010. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management terms (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may however be more than one year old.

Some of the terms and abbreviations used in this report are:

- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- AL:** Action Level, the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- TT:** Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the clarity (or cloudiness) of water.
- ppm:** parts per million, a measure for concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.
- ppb:** parts per billion, a measure for concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter.
- pCi/L:** picocuries per liter, a measure for radiation.
- P\*:** Potential violation, one that is likely to occur in the near future once the system have sampled for four quarters.
- n/a::** either not available or not applicable.
- ND:** Not Detected, the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.

**Section I - Contaminants Detected**

Inorganic Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2/18/2008	Arsenic	10		ug/l	0.006				No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
2/18/2008	Barium	2	2	mg/l	0.0190				No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
6-9/2008	Copper (90th Percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/l	0.377				No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
2/18/2008	Fluoride	4	4	mg/l	1.1				No.	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
6-9/2008	Lead (90th Percentile)	15 (AL)	0	ug/l	0.015				No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2009	Total Haloacetic Acids (haa5)	60		ug/l	7.4	7.1	7.1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2009	Total Trihalomethanes (tthm)	80		ug/l	12.0	12.5	12.5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Organic Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
10/12/2009	Cis-1, 2-dichloroethylene	70	70	ug/l	BDL	ND	2.2		No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
10/12/2009	Tetrachloroethylene	5	0	ug/l	BDL	ND	1.6		No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
10/12/2009	Trans-1, 2-dichloroethylene	100	100	ug/l	BDL	ND	1.22		No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
10/12/2009	Trichloroethylene	5	0	ug/l	BDL	ND	6.61		No.	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Radiological Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
6/18/2009	Gross Alpha	5	0	pci/l	1.2				No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2/16/2008	Sodium	n/a	mg/l	129.3		No				Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching

Residual Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2009	Chlorine Residual MRDL	4		mg/l	0.9	0.44	1.29		No	Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbiological organisms

**Special Note on Lead:** 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. Our system 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>.

**Special Note on Arsenic:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Availability of a Source Water Assessment (SWA)**

A Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared for our system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a high (detection) susceptibility risk. More information of this assessment can be obtained by contacting Mr. Mike Murphy at 219-866-5530 at your earliest convenience. You can also obtain additional information by contacting Ms. Rebecca Travis of IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (317) 308-3329.

**Our Watershed Protection Efforts**

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

**Public Involvement Opportunities**

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Mr. Mike Murphy at 219-866-5530. Or you can join us at our Water Board Meetings, which are regularly held every 2nd and 4th Monday in the City Council Chambers at 4:00 P.M. We encourage you to participate and to give us your feedback.

**Please Share This Information**

Large water volume customers (like apartments complexes, hospitals, schools, and/or industries) are encouraged to post extra copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This "good faith" effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of the water that they consume.