

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Ironwood Public Water Supply

February 4, 2017

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This is designed to inform you about the quality of 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.

Water Source

Our water source is two glacial aquifers, which serve the Big Springs and Spring Creek Well Fields. These six wells range with a depth of 54 feet to 140 feet. The City of Ironwood water supply recently completed a State of Michigan approved wellhead protection plan to protect the public area water supply.

Information About This Report

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Bob Tervonen at (906)932-5050 or Tim Pertile. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are normally held on the second and fourth Monday each month at 5:30 pm in the commission chambers of the Memorial Building at 213 South Marquette Street in Ironwood, MI.

Water Contaminants

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, is expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 1-800-426-4791.

Abbreviations and Terms

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The “maximum allowed” (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The “goal” (MCLG) is 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.

The City of Ironwood Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2016.

sample was total coliform-positive or fecal-positive or E. coli positive and the other sample (routine distribution system sample or repeat sample) was fecal-positive or E. coli positive. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Fluoride – Individuals who drink water with fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may also get mottled teeth.

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) – Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids (HAA5) in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

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. The City of Ironwood 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>

Nitrate – Infants below the age of six months who drink water with nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and baby blue syndrome.

Nitrite - Infants below the age of six months who drink water with nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and baby blue syndrome.

Sodium – Sodium has no MCL or MCLG. Sodium contamination is a source of erosion of natural deposits.

Total Coliform - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

Trihalomethane (THM) – Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, any may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What This Means

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. **The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.**

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, one would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Water System Improvements

The City of Ironwood recently completed installing water and sewer mains in the Jessieville and Norrie areas as well as the neighborhood that lies north of US-2 between Lake and Luxmore Street. Future improvements included installing 6000' of 16" transmission water main and water and sewer system improvements in the Washington and Sutherland Ave. neighborhood. These projects will be funded by USDA Rural Development. These sewer system improvements eliminated problems with infiltration and inflow. The water system improvements will include replacing defective water mains and provide better water flow and a more dependable water system to these areas.

Since 1997, the City of Ironwood has invested in over twenty million dollars (\$20 million) in our pump station, well fields and distribution system. These improvements were completed with very modest water rate increases, which are still around the water rate average in the Upper Peninsula region. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply future water system improvements are necessary. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the water rate structure.

Precautions

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, patients who have received organ transplants, patients with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk with infections. These individuals 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Please call our office at 932-5050 if you have any questions.