



THE WATER WE DRINK

2014 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR

CITY OF OSAGE

GARY SCHNEIDER, SUPERINTENDENT

641/732-3709

TO OUR CUSTOMERS

We are proud to provide safe, dependable water to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. As our customer, you have a right to fully understand the efforts we make to assure that your water is safe to drink. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water and its compliance with government standards.

This Annual Water Quality Report provides detailed analytical testing results from samples of your area's water supply and compares your tap water to federal and state standards. The source of our water is groundwater drawn from the Devonian and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter) aquifers made up of St. Peter Sandstone and Galena Dolomite formations. The Devonian and Ordovician aquifers were determined to be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifers and overlying materials allow surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application to move through the aquifers fairly quickly. The City wells will be most susceptible to activities such as dry cleaners, gas stations, industrial sites, and municipal wastewater discharges. Well #2 was drilled in 1912 to a depth of 810 feet. It was later filled in to a depth of 676 feet. The well is equipped with a submersible pump rated at 400 gpm. Well #4 was drilled in 1953 to a depth of 790 feet. It was later filled in to a depth of 710 feet. Well #4 is equipped with a submersible pump and can pump approximately 400 gpm. Well #5 was drilled in 1964 to a depth of 650 feet. This well is equipped with a turbine pump and can pump approximately 550 gpm. Each well is equipped with a fluoride addition system. Chlorination was added in November, 2002 to all three wells. Two elevated storage tanks with a capacity of 500,000 gallons each are available for water storage.

WATER QUALITY DATA

Most of the data presented in the following table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2014. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Our system monitors for several unregulated contaminants as required by our State operation permit.

This water supply obtains its water from the dolomite and limestone of the Devonian-Ordovician aquifer. The Devonian-Ordovician aquifer was determined to be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide some protection from contaminants from the land surface. The Devonian-Ordovician wells will be susceptible to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 641-732-3709.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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 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.*
- *ppb -- parts per billion.*
- *ppm -- parts per million.*
- *pCi/L – picocuries per liter*
- *N/A – Not applicable*
- *ND -- Not detected*
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Lead (ppb) 90 th & 95 th Percentile	0	AL=15	90 th -13.6 95 th -42	9/30/2012	ND-227	No, however 2 of 20 samples exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4.0	MRDL=4.0	.85	12/31/2014	.61-1.09	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.1	02/17/09	2.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1.7	02/17/09	1.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) Well #2 Well #4 Well #5	4 4 4	4 4 4	.81 .86 .91	12/1/2014	.45-1.09 .62-1.12 .50-1.15	No No No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N] (ppm) Well #2 Well #4 Well #5	10 10 10	10 10 10	4.5 9.6 <1.0	1/01/14 - 12/31/14	4.5 7.3 – 9.6 <1.0	No No No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm) Well #2 Well #4 Well #5	N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A	19 5.9 9.4	8/6/14	19.0 5.9 9.4	No No No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	.334	9/30/2012	.0420 - .881	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	13.3	9/30/14	13.3	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	10.0	9/30/14	10.0	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Selenium (ppb) Wells # 2 & #4	50	50	2.7-4.9	8/09/11	2.7-4.9	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Barium (ppm) Well #2 Well #4 Well #5	2 2 2	2 2 2	.113 .0826 .0983	8/9/11 8/9/11 8/9/11	.113 .0826 .0983	No No No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Alachlor (ppb)	2	0	<0.10	1/1/13- 12/31/13	<0.10	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Thallium (ppb)	2	.5	.40	8/9/11	.40	No	Leaching from pre- processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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).

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 Osage Municipal Water Supply 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>.

CONTAMINANT VIOLATIONS

NONE

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information, please contact Gary Schneider, water superintendent at 641-732-3709 during City Hall business hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the City Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of each month, except July, August and December, when they meet only the first Monday of the month. Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are held in Council Chambers, City Hall, and are open to the public.