

Introduction

We are 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. **Algoma Utilities is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.**

Water System Information

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact the General Manager (920) 487-5556. The Algoma Utility Commission meets monthly. Please call for meeting time. Meetings are held in the Utility conference room located at 1407 Flora Ave., Algoma.



Frequently Asked Questions

We receive several telephone calls about the components of our water each year. The most commonly asked questions are listed below.

Q: Is there fluoride in our water?

A: The fluoride is a natural component; please see the table below for current test results.

Q: Does the water come from Lake Michigan?

A: No, Algoma's water comes from artesian wells.

Health 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 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 (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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Source(s) of Water



Source id	Source	Depth (in feet)
1	Groundwater	589
2	Groundwater	484
3	Groundwater	504
5	Groundwater	472

A summary of the source water assessment for Algoma Utilities is available at: http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pk_swap_web.p_swap_summary?i_ro_seq_no=141601

Educational Information

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 organic chemicals, 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Private Water Treatment

If you have, or are considering the purchase of a home treatment device to enhance the water aesthetics, please remember that proper maintenance and service is required for continued effectiveness.

Number of Contaminants Required to be Tested

This table displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

Contaminant Group	# of Contaminants
Disinfection Byproducts	1
Inorganic Contaminants	16
Microbiological Contaminants	1
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	27
Unregulated Contaminants	4
Volatile Organic Contaminants	21

Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
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.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MFL	million fibers per liter
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2007)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	4 (average)	3- 5		NO	

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2007)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	7.13 (average)	5.90- 9.60		N O	n/a
BROMOFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.66 (average)	.44- .80		N O	n/a
CHLOROFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	12.00 (average)	7.40- 20.00		N O	n/a
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	3.33 (average)	2.70- 3.80		N O	n/a

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2007)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC (ppb)	10	n/a	2	0- 2	03/07/2005	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	.100	.023-.100	03/07/2005	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CADMIUM (ppb)	5	5	.2	.0- .2	03/07/2005	NO	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
CHROMIUM (ppb)	100	100	1	0- 1	03/07/2005	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL = 1.3	1.3	.24	.0000-.7300	03/09/2005	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	.9	.6- .9	03/07/2005	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL = 15	0	4.4	.52-30.00	03/09/2005	*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)	100		4.6000	.0000-4.6000	03/07/2005	NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	.12 (average)	nd-.48		NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	120.00	9.40-120.00	03/07/2005	NO	n/a

* Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and/or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the NUMBER of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact your water supply operator.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2007)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
TOLUENE (ppm)	1	1	.0001 (average)	nd-.0003		NO	Discharge from petroleum factories
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	23.1 (average)	17.9-32.7		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

What does this mean?

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. 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. The Utility is continuously involved with system maintenance. Flushing mains through hydrants is one such activity. Flushing helps prevent corrosion products from forming on the wall of the pipe. Flushing is an important part of ensuring that fresh, quality water is delivered to the consumer. Please feel free to call our office at (920) 487-5556 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Cross-Connections

A cross-connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and another source. Contamination can happen whenever water pressure drops and the polluted source is drawn back into the drinking water system. Contamination can also occur when pressure builds in a warm garden hose and the hose water expands back into the pipe. To help avoid this, disconnect the hose at the faucet after use and never leave a pressurized hose attached to a faucet between uses.

The building inspector currently inspects all new construction for cross-connections. It is the duty of Algoma Utilities to inspect, or cause inspections, on all residential and nonresidential properties serviced by the Utility. Residential properties will be inspected on a ten-year interval and all nonresidential on a two-year interval. The most common type of cross-connection is found at the outside hose bib or laundry sink. A hose submerged in a sink or bucket containing a toxic liquid is a health threatening cross-connection. For that reason, State of Wisconsin approved hose bib vacuum breakers, must be installed on all unprotected hose bibs. For more information please contact Algoma Utilities at (920) 487-5556.



Neighborhood Drinking Water Watchers Program

Why: Water security is now a more prevalent concern than ever before. Water security is a shared responsibility involving water suppliers, government, law enforcement and citizens. Homeland security is now being heightened and everyone can help by taking small steps. Citizens can be involved in

homeland security by playing an important role in protecting our critical water resources.

What: Drinking water systems may be targets for terrorists and other criminals wanting to interrupt and cause harm to the community's water supply.

Who: This program gives citizens the opportunity to become more familiar with their community. This will enable you to quickly recognize suspicious activity around your water utility as opposed to the day to day operations of a water utility. **When** you witness suspicious activity near Utility property, do not confront the person, immediately report it to the local authorities.

How: Citizens who participate in the Water Watchers are participating in a common goal to keep their water supply safe! The Drinking Water Watchers group will be educated in what to look for around the facility and what is considered suspicious activity.

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!

Please contact our office at (920) 487-5556, if you would like to be involved in the Neighborhood Drinking Water Watchers program!