

Consumer Confidence Report - 2014

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring all community water systems to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water and to distribute water quality reports. This is the seventeenth such annual report. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe. As you read through this report, I trust you will feel free to call the Town Clerk's office at (260)463-3241, or stop by at 1201 N Townline Road, and we will attempt to answer any additional questions you may have.

Thank you,

John F. Leu
Water Works Superintendent

Brief History

- Mid 1800's: A well was dug on the Court House square "of sufficient depth to have five feet of water in it at all times."
- 1893: The Townspeople petitioned the Town Board to establish a Municipal water supply. Two "One Hundred Horsepower steam pumps"
- 1936: Two new gravel packed wells with electric motors were drilled at the 200 block of East Spring St., & the 200 block of East Michigan St. and a 125,000 gallon tower was installed.
- 1952: Iron Filters were added
- 1965: Well #3 drilled on the north end of Town near Walnut and Nursery Street
- 1968: Several large mains to close loops, a 300,000 gallon tower, new aerator, settling basin, and doubled iron filter capacity to bring the plant capacity to 1,000,000 gallons per day
- 2000: The water utility developed a well field adjacent to well #3. All current wells are at or near the 100' depth.
- 2001: A source water assessment or well-head protection program is also in process. The delineation of all town wells "zone of protection" has been determined. You, the community, and all other public entities have an opportunity to participate in the source water protection as part of this program. Please call the Clerk's office with your interest in being a part of the planning committee, or any other capacity you feel suited to. Two separate water system audits by an engineering and a management firm were performed. Additionally a master plan was developed for a 25 plus year water system improvement plan and updated mapping.
- 2002: A new 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank has been erected on the north end of town.
- 2003: Large water main extensions have been designed and were installed this year, at the north end of town, and on the northeast corner of the water system. This added 18 fire hydrants, looping the distribution system, and improving fire flows.
- 2004: A matching Federal Grant was sought and received for a large main (completing a westerly loop in the distribution system). The main is scheduled to be designed and installed in mid 2005.
- 2005: A 10" ductile main was installed North & South at the west edge of town completely looping the water system, therefore, augmenting the water volume and quality.
- 2010: A utility planning grant is being procured through Region III A, and with our engineering firm, DLZ. We will be looking at future needs, and implementing an updated mapping of all our utilities.
- 2011: Utility Planning Study completed and all utilities have been mapped using global positioning equipment.
- 2013: 1 mile of 12" main financed by LaGrange County & John Deere dealer; managed by the Town's utility & drawn by DLZ was extended on the North end of the distribution system.

Definitions

***Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water, MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

***Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.

***Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

***Action level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

N/A:** Not Applicable *ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

***mg/L:** Milligrams per liter

Educational 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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.

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

*Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Testing

LaGrange Water tests for more than 100 contaminants on a regular basis; many of which are naturally occurring in ground water. The following table lists contaminants detected. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Detected Level</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>
2014	ARSENIC	3.9ppb	10ppb	N/A
2014	BARIUM	.12 mg/L	2.0mg/L	2mg/L
2014	CHROMIUM	< 02.0ppb	100ppb	100ppb
2014	FLUORIDE/ADJUSTED	1.0mg/L	2mg/L	4mg/L
2014	FLUORIDE/NATURAL	0.3mg/L	4mg/L	4mg/L
2014	NICKEL	<0.0010mg/L	None	Unregulated
2014	NITRATE	0.3mg/L	10mg/L	10mg/L
2014	SODIUM	9.2mg/L		Unregulated
2014	BROMODICHLOROMETHANE	< 0.5ppb	**	Unregulated
2014	CHLORO/DIBROMOMETHANE	< 0.5ppb	**	Unregulated
2014	CHLOROFORM	< 0.5ppb	**	Unregulated
2014	Total HALOACETIC ACIDS (haa5)	8.7ppb	60ppb	
2014	Total TRIHALOMETHANES (tthm)	20.3 ppb	80ppb	
			<u>ACTION LEVEL</u>	
2013	LEAD	1.0ppb	15ppb	0
2013	COPPER***	0.57mg/L	1.3mg/L	1.3mg/L
2009	RADIONUCLIDE (gross alpha)	0.10pCi/l	5pCi/l	0
2009	RADIONUCLIDE (gross beta)	NONEpCi/l	50pCi/l*	0
2009	RADIUM 228	NONEpCi/l	5pCi/l ****	0

*EPA considers 50/pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

**Contaminants were detected at concentrations indicated, the sum of which is less than the current MCL of 80 ppb for total trihalomethanes. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

***The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has approved our corrosion control plan as designed by our engineering firm (DLZ), and is to be installed at the treatment plant in 2003. Continual testing and monitoring on a routine basis is part and parcel of this corrosion control plan. LaGrange Water System is in compliance, and well below the action level.

****The EPA considers 5pCi/l to be the MCL for Radium 226 & 228 combined.

Arsenic: EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

Barium: Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.

Chromium: Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing chromium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

Fluoride: Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Nickel: Automobile Body Shops/Repair Shops, Chemical/Petroleum Processing, Construction/Demolition, Electrical/Electronic Manufacturing, Furniture Repair/Manufacturing Hardware/Lumber/Parts Stores, Home Manufacturing, Junk/Scrap/Salvage Yards, Machine Shops, Medical/Vet Offices, Metal Plating/Finishing/Fabricating, Photo Processing/Printing, Synthetics/Plastics Producers. Nickel is not regulated, therefore there is no State or Federal health effect language.

Nitrate: Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage, erosion of natural deposits. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Sodium: Can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Bromodichloromethane; Chlorodibromomethane; Chloroform; Total Haloacetic Acids(haa5); & Total Trihalomethanes (tthm) : These constituents are by products of our chlorine disinfectant.

Lead: 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). LaGrange has tested the households most likely to have the highest levels of lead, and discovered very low levels.

Copper: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. If there is any concern, or question, it is a good practice to flush your tap 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. (In order to reduce the household plumbing's negative effect on water quality.)

Radionuclide Gross Alpha and Gross Beta: Typical source would be the erosion of natural deposits.

Radium 228: Typical source would be the erosion of natural deposits.

Large water volume customers (like apartment 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.