

Consumer Confidence Report – 2021

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 24th 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,
Mark A. Miller, Water Works Superintendent

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

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>
2020	ARSENIC	3.3 ppb	10ppb	N/A
2020	BARIUM	.15 mg/L	2.0mg/L	2mg/L
2020	CHROMIUM	2.4 ppb	100ppb	100ppb
2021	FLUORIDE/ADJUSTED	0.7 mg/L	2mg/L	4mg/L
2021	FLUORIDE/NATURAL	0.3 mg/L	4mg/L	4mg/L
2020	NICKEL	<0.0010 mg/L	None	Unregulated
2021	NITRATE	0.359 mg/L	10mg/L	10mg/L
2020	SODIUM	12 mg/L		Unregulated
2020	BROMODICHLOROMETHANE	< 0.5 ppb	**	Unregulated
2020	CHLORO/DIBROMOMETHANE	< 0.5 ppb	**	Unregulated
2020	CHLOROFORM	< 0.5 ppb	**	Unregulated
2021	Total HALOACETIC ACIDS (haa5)	8.4 ppb	60ppb	
2021	Total TRIHALOMETHANES (tthm)	23.7 ppb	80ppb	
			<u>ACTION LEVEL</u>	
2019	LEAD	<1.0 ppb	15ppb	0
2019	COPPER***	0.34 mg/L	1.3mg/L	1.3mg/L
2018	RADIONUCLIDE (gross alpha)	0.61±1.22pCi/L	5pCi/L	0
2009	RADIONUCLIDE (gross beta)	NONEpCi/L	50pCi/L*	0
2018	RADIUM 228	0.68±0.55pCi/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: 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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

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.

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.