

2015 Quality on Tap Report

CITY OF STURGIS WATER SYSTEM

We're pleased to present you with the 2015 Quality on Tap 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 your water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. This report shows your water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact the Engineering Department at 659-7249. We want our valued customers to be well informed about their water utility.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Si desea entender este reporte puede buscar alguien que lo traduzca para ud.

Source Water Information

Your source water comes from four groundwater wells located in the east and south areas of Sturgis, which pump the water from an underground aquifer. The State of Michigan performed an assessment of your source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or relative potential for contamination. The susceptibility rating is a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geological sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. All four of the City's source wells have a moderately high susceptibility rating. There are no significant potential sources of contamination within the standard well isolation area.

We continue to take measures to protect your source water. The City has an established Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP). The WHPP includes the following elements: identification of potential sources of contamination; wellhead protection area management, public education/participation, and contingency plans. The WHPP "Local Team" developed a ground water protection ordinance as a mechanism to provide wellhead protection area management. The ordinance was approved by the City Commission in 2013. An Emergency Response Plan was originally completed in 2004 and it was updated in 2013. The plan goal is to protect the health of our customers and integrity of water system operations from events which could cause harm. The Emergency Response Plan will be used to effectively minimize system threats which may disrupt your water supply. The City's Cross Connection Control Program continued its emphasis on initial inspections rather than low hazard re-inspections in an effort to get all facilities inspected. Cross Connection Control involves checking to see whether proper back flow prevention devices are in place, and testing those devices to verify proper operation. One hundred and twenty one devices were tested and 65 accounts received their initial inspection in 2015.

Your source water has three chemicals added to it before entering the water system. At each well, the following chemicals are added: chlorine, fluoride (hydrofluosilicic acid), and a polyphosphate polymer. Chlorine is a disinfectant added to prevent bacterial growth in the water supply system. Normal chlorine concentrations are 0.8 to 1.0 parts per million (ppm) at each well to maintain proper chlorine residual levels in your water supply system. Fluoride is added to your supply water to help prevent tooth decay. The polyphosphate polymer is used for aesthetics to minimize "red water". It also helps control corrosion and scale in your water supply system.

Water Quality Monitoring

The City of Sturgis routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Table #1 shows all required monitoring results for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. Required monitoring for some regulated contaminants occurs less often than annually. Testing results older than 5 years are not included. 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at EPA's web site (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html>).

Contaminant Monitoring Results

In Tables #1 and #2 below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

- **Parts per million (ppm)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L)** - A unit of measure for levels of radon gas.
- **Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The “Maximum Allowed” 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” 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.
- **Trace** - A compound detected at levels above the detection limits, but at levels too low to quantify.
- **N/A** - Not Available
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG)** - The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

TABLE #1. REGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING RESULTS

Inorganic	Range of Values Detected	Maximum Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
Arsenic	1.1 – 1.3 ppb	1.3 ppb	10 ppb	zero	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	0.048 - 0.33 ppm	0.33 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.68 - 0.75 ppm	0.75 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Volatile Organic					
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	1.0 – 9.8 ppb	9.8 ppb	60 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
	Range of Values Detected	Highest Running Annual Average	MCL	MCLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
TTHM's -[Total trihalomethanes]	ND – 9.5 ppb	5.8 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Radioactive	Range of Values Detected	Maximum Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
Radium 226 & 228 – Combined*	0.40 – 2.46 pCi/L	2.46 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	zero	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha**	1.2 - 1.4 pCi/L	1.4 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	zero	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals, which are radioactive.
Disinfectant	Range of Values Detected	Highest Quarterly Running Annual Average	MRDL	MRDLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
Chlorine Residual	0.01– 1.06 ppm	0.44 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
LEAD/COPPER	90th Percentile Value	# of sites above the AL	Action Level AL	MCLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
Copper***	0.380 ppm	1	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead***	1.6 ppb	1	15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

TABLE #2. SPECIAL CONTAMINANT MONITORING RESULTS

Special Contaminant	Range of Values Detected	Average of Values Detected	MCL	EPA Goal MCLG	Likely Sources of Contamination
Sodium	4.0 - 6.0 ppm	5.13 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of Natural Deposits

* 2014 Results for Radium 226 & 228 – Combined

** 2012 Results for Gross Alpha

*** 2014 Results for Lead and Copper

Meaning of Testing Results

So what do the testing results mean? We are proud your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. Water quality monitoring and testing detected ten regulated contaminants. These ten regulated contaminant detects are found in Table #1. (Note: Some regulated contaminants are tested on intervals longer than five years). Sodium monitoring results in Table #2 are required by EPA regulations while they consider setting a limit on it. The City of Sturgis is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. None of the 168 Total Coliform bacteria samples taken in 2015 returned a positive result. A positive test for Total Coliform bacteria indicates the potential presence of disease causing organisms. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator of other, potentially-harmful, bacteria. If Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed, it would be a warning of potential problems within your water system.

The City of Sturgis water system was required to monitor for unregulated contaminants during 2015 as part of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3). Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where these contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. The 2015 results for unregulated contaminant monitoring can be found in Table 3. Previous unregulated contaminant monitoring results can be obtained by contacting Rick Miller at 651-2879.

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 Sturgis 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://water.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Population Vulnerability & Contamination Sources

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 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 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.

TABLE #3. 2015 UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RESULTS			
Contaminant	Range of Values Detected	Average Level Detected	Method Detection Limit
Molybdenum	ND – 1.9 ppb	1.5 ppb	1.0 ppb
Strontium	ND – 100 ppb	67.6 ppb	0.3 ppb
Vanadium	ND – 0.2 ppb	0.2 ppb	0.2 ppb
Chlorate	N – 150 ppb	91.3 ppb	20 ppb

Risk Assessment & Health Effects

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters (about 2 quarts) 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.

For Additional Information

At this time, the City does not anticipate any meetings regarding the quality of your drinking water. If a meeting were scheduled, local media outlets, including the City’s website (www.sturgismi.gov), the weekly “E-wire” newsletter, and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sturgismi) would have additional information. We hope our 2015 Quality on Tap Report has answered your questions regarding your water supply system and tap water quality. If you have any questions or wish to be notified of meetings or other opportunities for public participation in decisions that affects the quality of your drinking water, please call the Engineering Department at 659-7249.