

2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report - Platteville Water & Sewer Utility

We're pleased to present to you the 2014 Annual Drinking 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.

The sources of drinking water, both tap 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. Our water source is supplied by groundwater pumped from 3 wells out of the Sandstone Aquifer. All wells are between 900 and 1000 feet below ground. This year we activated Well #5 and made Well #2 inactive as of January 1, 2013. **One item that comes up regularly is what the Hardness of the water in Platteville is. It is generally 325 mg/l (ppm) or 19 Grains/gallon.** This latter figure is generally used to determine the settings for a water softener.

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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Irv Lupee at 348-9741 ext. 2248**. I'm proud to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Water & Sewer Commission meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM in the Common Council Chambers of City Hall.

The Platteville Water and Sewer Utility routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. In the past year we have sampled for 2 Disinfection Byproducts, 16 Inorganic Contaminants, 3 Microbiological Contaminants, 4 Radioactive Contaminants, 25 Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides, 34 Unregulated Contaminants and 20 Volatile Organic Contaminants. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2014. A date in parenthesis in the table indicates the date of testing, if done prior to 2014.

In this table there are terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Not Applicable (N/A) – there are no standards for this contaminant.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) 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 - The “Goal” (MCLG) 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant (units)	Violation Y/N	Level Found	Range	MCL G	MCL	Typical Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts - None Detected						
Microbiological Contaminants						
1. Coliform (TCR)	No	1 positive	NA	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in <= 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants						
2. Gross Alpha, Excl R & U (pCi/L)	No	4.3	3.7 – 4.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
3. Gross Alpha, Incl R & U (pCi/L)	No	4.3	2.8 – 4.0	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
4. Radium (226 + 228) (pCi/L)	No	4.0	3.7 – 4.3	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
5. Arsenic (ppb)	No	2	0 - 2	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

6. Barium (ppm)	No	0.064	0.052 – 0.064	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
7. Cadmium (ppb)	No	2.0	0 – 2.0	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
8. Copper (ppm) 0 of 30 results were above the action level	No	0.1190	0.1190	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
9. Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.2	0.2	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
10. Lead (ppb) 1 of 30 results were above the action level	No	11.60		0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
11. Nickel (ppb) (8/23/2011)	No	11.3000	0.0000 – 11.3000		100	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, groundwater and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
12. Nitrate (N03 – N) (ppm)	No	0.37	0 – 0.37	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
13. Nitrite (N02 – N) (ppm)	No	0.024	0.000 – 0.024	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
14. Selenium (ppb)	No	1	0 - 1	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
15. Sodium (ppm)	No	5.94	1.51 - 5.94	N/A	N/A	N/A
No detectable amounts were found for the following Inorganic Contaminants: Antimony, Beryllium, Chromium, Mercury, & Thallium						
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides – None Detected						
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
16. Toluene (ppm)	No	0.0022	0.0000 – 0.0022	1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories
Unregulated Contaminants						
17. Sulfate (ppm)	No	53.60	15.10 – 53.60	N/A	N/A	N/A

What does this mean?

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Contaminant Health Effects

LEAD: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Additional Health Information

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. Platteville Water and Sewer Utility 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information on Monitoring for Cryptosporidium and Radon

Our water system did not monitor our water for cryptosporidium or radon in 2014. We are not required by State or Federal drinking water regulations to do so.

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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

We at the Platteville Water & Sewer Utility work diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. 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 call our office if you have questions, 348-9741 ext. 2248, or e-mail at lupee@platteville.org.**