

2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Northwest Ottawa Water System—City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Charter Township, Village of Spring Lake, City of Ferrysburg, Spring Lake Township and Crockery Township

The City of Ferrysburg is pleased to present this year's Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water we deliver to you everyday. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water.



Our water source is Lake Michigan

We boast about our pre-filtered water and consider it the best source in West Michigan.

Water is collected through submerged intakes located several feet under the bottom of Lake Michigan and is pre-filtered as it enters the treatment facility. The natural sand above the intakes provide the pre-filter barrier which compliments the plant's direct filtration process.

We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets the Federal and State of Michigan drinking water health standards. The Northwest Ottawa Water System (NOWS) treatment plant and the City of Ferrysburg routinely monitor for a variety of dissolved mineral and organic substances in your drinking water pursuant to state and federal laws.

This report is designed to give you detailed information which will ensure you of the quality of your drinking water. The tables in this brochure show the results of this monitoring from January 1st through December 31st, 2010.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please contact **the Department of Public Works Supervisor George Dunning at 842-5803 or gdunning@ferrysburg.org**.

Moreover, to provide you with an opportunity for public participation in decisions, some of which might affect drinking water quality. The public is invited to attend the bi-monthly NOWS Administrative Committee meetings held at the Water Plant Conference Room. You may call the City of Grand Haven for an up-to-date meeting schedule.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these substances 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

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 cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, streams, lakes, 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.

City of Ferrysburg

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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 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 byproducts 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 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 provide the same protection for public health.

Source Water Assessment: The State performed an assessment of our Lake Michigan source water in 2003 and completed it in 2004 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale from "very-low" to "high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is "moderate". A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting the Water Facilities Manager at 847-3487.

Health Effects of 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.

The Northwest Ottawa Water Treatment Plant 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 thirty seconds to two 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE): This gasoline additive has contaminated some drinking water supplies across the country. Our drinking water does not contain MTBE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PENNY WILL BUY?

One penny will deliver about seven gallons of drinking water to your home and family every day of the year.

**FACT:
Northwest Ottawa Water System
Used Over 2.0 Billion Gallons
of Water in 2010**

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Parts per million (ppm) - A measurement of concentration. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years.

Parts per billion (ppb) - A measurement of concentration. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years.

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

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 Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Turbidity level shall not exceed 0.5 NTU in 95% of the samples every month. This is the measurement of suspended material that is found in water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

pCi/l - pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Unregulated Monitoring - 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.

Gross Alpha emitters, Radium 226 & 228 - Radionuclide contaminants that give off ionizing radiation. The state allows NOW to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - Means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water, (MDRL). There is convincing evidence that an addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - Means the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health (MRDLG). MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectant to control microbial contaminants.

Listed below are contaminants/substances detected in the Northwest Ottawa Water System. (Not listed are the hundreds of other contaminants for which we tested and that were not detected)

REGULATED MONITORING AT THE CUSTOMER TAP

Substance	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Range of Detection	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
<u>Lead</u> (from 2010)	No	2.0	ppb	0 — 4.0	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems Copper and Lead testing is performed once every three years and the highest level detected = 90th percentile. The next scheduled testing period is 2013.
<u>Copper</u> (from 2010)	No	111.0	ppb	0 — 187.0	AL=1300	1300	

REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MONITORING AT THE TREATMENT PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0% System Wide	Presence or absence	Coliform Bacteria was never detected	Bacteria in 5% of monthly samples		Naturally present
<u>Turbidity</u> Lowest monthly % meeting the turbidity limits=100%	No	0.09	NTU	0.04— 0.09 (point-of-entry)	5.0 (TT)		Soil runoff (Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.)
Fluoride	No	0.99	ppm	1 sample/ year	4	4	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	No	Not Detected	ppm	1 sample/ year	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer and septic tanks
Gross Alpha (2002)	No	<0.7	pCi/L	1 sample/15 years	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits Past analysis records for Gross Alpha and Radium 226 & 228 are well below the MCL; therefore these will only need to be tested every 15 years
Arsenic (2010)	No	Not Detected	ppb	1 sample/ 9 years	10	0	
Barium (2010)	No	0.02	ppm	1 sample/ 9 years	2	2	
Selenium (2010)	No	1.0	ppb	1 sample/ 9 years	50	50	
Radium 226 & 228 (2002)	No	<0.9	pCi/L	1 sample/15 years	5	0	
Sodium	No	11.0	ppm	1 sample/ year			Mineral and nutrient erosion
Chlorine Residuals	No	1.42 running annual avg.	ppm	0.83 — 1.78 monthly avg.	MRDL= 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloride	No	14.0	ppm	1 sample/year			Mineral and nutrient erosion

REGULATED MONITORING IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No	36.2 running annual avg.	ppb	8.2—81.4	80 running annual avg.	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	26.8 running annual avg.	ppb	6.0—48.8	60 running annual avg.	0	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Northwest Ottawa Water Treatment Plant

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During May 2010 we did not complete all required continuous online turbidity monitoring and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. **This was not an emergency.**

The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for; how often we are supposed to sample and how often we actually sampled.

Contaminant		Required sampling frequency	Our sampling frequency	Time Period
Turbidity	When continuous monitoring equipment is offline:	Every 4 hours for not more than 5 days	Not sampled for approximately 50 hours	May 22-24, 2010

What happened? What is being done? On May 22 to May 24, 2010 the water plants control system malfunctioned, during new plant construction, causing a loss of data and a failure to monitor continuous individual filter turbidity (which collects turbidity samples every 15 minutes). When turbidimeters and data collecting systems fail we are required to collect grab samples at least every 4 hours while the filter is in service. Plant staff was unaware that the turbidimeter data was not being saved. Approximately 50 hours of turbidimeter data was lost. Plant staff failed to collect grab samples from the individual filters every four hours during this time period. However the combined filter effluent and tap water leaving the plant was monitored every 4 hours for the entire duration and at no time during the above period did the turbidity exceed drinking water standards. For more information, please contact Mr. Joseph VanderStel, Water Facilities Manager, 519 Washington, Grand Haven, MI, 49417 at 616-847-3488, or the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment at 616-356-0271.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Only 3% of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking.
- Households consume at least 50% of their water by lawn sprinkling.
- Toilets use the most water with an average of 27 gallons per person per day.

Use water...and use it wisely!