

2010 WATER QUALITY REPORT

For The City of Fairfax

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our groundwater is drawn from the Silurian aquifer. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

Distribution system:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4.0	MRDL=4.0	2.80	RAA	1.85 – 3.40	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in >5% of monthly samples	0	Twice monthly	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	8.70	07/14/2010	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	2.10	07/14/2010	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	15 (two sample sites exceeded)	08/25/2009	<0.50 – 19	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.994	08/25/2009	0.340 – 1.02	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Well #1:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	4.6	01/06/2009	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	8.17	01/06/2009	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	<1.0	04/05/2010	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	43.7	07/14/2010	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.47	01/06/2009	NA	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Well #2:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1.51	01/06/2009	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	5.5	01/19/2006	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	<1.0	04/05/2010	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	59.3	12/13/2010	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.6	12/13/2010	NA	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0206	12/13/2010	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Well #3:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1.1	07/03/2008	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	<1.0	07/06/2010	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [as N] (ppm)	1	1	<0.10	Quarterly 01/04/10 – 10/04/10	<0.10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	31.1	12/13/2010	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.5	12/13/2010	NA	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.354	12/13/2010	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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 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.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- IDSE – Initial Distribution System Evaluation
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

GENERAL 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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 (800-426-4791).

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 Fairfax 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

CONTAMINANT VIOLATIONS

None

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The City of Fairfax water supply obtains its water from the Silurian aquifer. Every aquifer has a degree of susceptibility to contamination because of the characteristics of the aquifer, overlying materials, and human activity. Susceptibility to contamination generally increases with shallower aquifers, increasing permeability of the aquifer and overlying material, nearby development or agricultural activity, and abandoned or poorly maintained wells. The Silurian aquifer from where the City of Fairfax obtains its water was determined to not be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials prevent easy access of contaminants to the aquifer. The wells will not be susceptible to most contaminant sources except through pathways to the aquifer such as abandoned or poorly maintained wells. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from the City of Fairfax at 319-846-2204.

OTHER INFORMATION

Our water utility is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water tower, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please call 911 or contact the Linn County Sheriff's Office at 319-892-6100. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information, please contact Jeff, Dave, or Ron at 319-846-2204 during the following hours: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Fairfax City Council meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fairfax City Hall and are open to the public.