

CLAY TOWNSHIP 2004 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Clay Township Water Department
9625 Ainsworth Road
Algonac, Michigan 48001

CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This report covers all monitoring from January through December 2004. We are pleased to report that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws remains at or above State standards.

The State performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from very low to very high, based on geological sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is high, given land uses and potential contaminant sources. A copy of the report is on file at the Algonac Water Plant.

SECURITY OF OUR WATER SYSTEM

The way we view potential risks and security of things has changed dramatically since 9-11. We want to ensure all of our water customers that the security of our distribution system is our highest priority. We have installed alarms and other equipment on our facilities to help reduce the risk of potential threats. We urge all our customers to report any suspicious activity or questionable people to the Police immediately at 810 794-9381. All Water Department personnel are in uniform and wear identification badges. If there is any question about Water Department personnel call the Water Department at 810 794-9303.

WORKING HARD FOR YOU

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for setting national standards for substances in drinking water and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Each water system must monitor for these substances and report to the EPA if these substances are detected. The EPA uses this data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water.

This publication conforms to regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. For more information about this report or any questions, please contact Jon DeBoyer, Clay Township Water Superintendent at 810 794-9303.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Clay Township Meeting Hall, 4710 Pointe Tremble Road, Algonac, Michigan 48001.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM

Clay Township purchases its water from the City of Algonac, which has a new micro-filtration plant. The Algonac Water Plant gets its water from the St. Clair River, which is considered part of the Great Lakes water source. This source is one of the most sought after water sources in North America. The water plant processes over 400 million gallons annually.

SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than others. People undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant patients, people with HIV, elderly people and some infants may be more at risk than the general population. These people should seek advice from their Doctor on the risks of drinking water. The Center for Disease Control has guidelines on reducing the risk of infection from Cryptosporidium and other microbial containments through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

NATURALLY OCCURRING BACTERIA

The simple fact is bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested over 150 samples (over 12 samples every month) for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water testing positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on others ways that you can help conserve water can be found at

www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

CONTAMINATION FROM CROSS-CONNECTIONS

Cross-connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow prevention device.

For more information, visit the Web site of the American Backflow Prevention Association (www.abpa.org) for a discussion on current issues.

SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife.
- Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has a Web site (www.michigan.gov/deq) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.