

City of Sylvan Lake

2008 Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present you with our 2008 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of 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. Our water comes from Lake Huron. As water travels over the land or underground, 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. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute, performed a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from very low to high based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The Lake Huron source water intake is categorized as having a moderately low susceptibility to potential contaminant sources. The Lake Huron water treatment plant has historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Both the City of Detroit, which produces our water, and the City of Sylvan Lake, which supplies your water, vigilantly work to protect the safety of the water you drink and use. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact John Martin, City Manager and State of Michigan Certified Waterworks System Operator, at 248-682-1440. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please contact City Hall or attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church, 2399 Figa, in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

The City of Sylvan Lake and the Detroit Water Department routinely monitors your drinking water for contaminants according to Federal and State laws. In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbiological Contaminants - Viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Pesticides and Herbicides - may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Inorganic Contaminants - 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.

Organic Chemical Contaminants - includes synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants - can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In the following table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. Please refer to the Key to Detected Contaminants below for definitions and explanations of these terms.

Key to Detected Contaminants Tables

Symbol	Abbreviation for	Definition/Explanation
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	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.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	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.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	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.
ppb	Parts per billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts per million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
n/a	Not applicable	
>	Greater than	

The following table shows the results of testing done on our water coming from the Lake Huron water treatment plant. The tables indicate the test date, the level of contaminants detected and a description of possible ways they may enter a water system.

Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2008 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap								
Fluoride	9/9/2008	ppm	4	4	1.15	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	9/9/2008	ppm	10	10	0.33	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	6/9/2008	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Feb-Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	80	16.2	6.6-31.9	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Feb- Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	60	8.5	4.3-12.7	no	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant (Total Chlorine residual)	Jan-Dec 2008	ppm	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.72	0.54-0.86	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2008 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.11 NTU	100%	no	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

2008 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System					
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	In one month 0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E.coli</i> or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E.coli</i> positive.	Entire year 0	No	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

2008 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap								
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2008	ppb	0	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2008	ppm	1.3	1.3	21	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running annual average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal				Erosion of natural deposits

2008 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.38	Erosion of natural deposits

What does all this mean?

As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations. 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 EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having any health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 at 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 Sylvan Lake 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>.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve-month period at our Detroit River intake plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. Beginning in July of 2008, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) began monitoring quarterly for unregulated contaminants under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2.) All the UCMR2 contaminants monitored on List 1 and List 2 in 2008 were undetected.

In 2008 the City of Sylvan Lake did not meet it's monitoring and reporting requirements. We are required to conduct a system evaluation to characterize disinfection by-products (DBPs) in our system and identify the best locations to monitor. We were supposed to collect samples in November 2007 and February, May and August of 2008 for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s). We collected samples in November and February, but failed to collect them in May and August. Although this incident is not an emergency, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation.

There is nothing you need to do. The missed samples were for the purpose of a system evaluation and are not compliance samples. We have revised our monitoring plan and will be taking these samples in August 2009 and May 2010.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we may need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. We do not intend to raise water rates at this time.

Please call our office if you have questions. The City of Sylvan Lake works very diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Sincerely,

John Martin,
City Manager, Waterworks System Operator