THE WATER WE DRINK

Public Water Supply ID: LA1051003

Annual Report for 2009

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2009. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and the services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). 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. Our water source is listed below:

Source Name: Surface Water Raw Intake – Source Location: Mississippi River – Source Type: Surface Water – Source ID: 1051003-001

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottle water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial Contaminants – such as viruses and bacteria, which come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. 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.
3. Pesticides and Herbicides – which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
4. 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.
5. Radioactive Contaminants – which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) has been available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of "high". If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at (504) 363-1540.

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 water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

We are pleased 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 have any questions about this report, please call the Gretna Waterworks at (504) 363-1540.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals – Office of Public Health routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain some small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

1. Maximum contaminant level (MCL) – MCL is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
2. Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known risk.
3. Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) – The Highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
4. Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk.
5. Parts per billion (ppb) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
6. Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
7. Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – is a measure of radioactivity in water.
8. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – measure of cloudiness of water
9. Treatment technique (TT) – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

In the table that follows, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected at levels BELOW their maximum contaminant level. These samples, except for Lead and Copper results and surface water systems, were collected at the raw water source and represent water before any treatment, blending or distribution. As such, the consumer tap levels could be less. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Contaminant: **Copper** – Sampling Period: 2008 - 2010/ Level: **0.5** 90th Percentile / Level: **0.5** 95th Percentile / Sites over AL **0** / MCL: AL= 1.3 / Unit: ppm
Major Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Contaminant: **Total Nitrate and Nitrite –** Sampling Date: 1/16/09 / Level: **1** / Range: **1** / MCL: 10 / MCLG: 10 / Unit: ppm
Major Sources: runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant: **Arsenic** - Sampling Date: 1/16/2009 / Highest Value: **1 /** Range: **1 /** Unit: ppb / MCL 10
Typical Sources: Erosion of natural deposits; production waste

Contaminant: **Atrazine** – Sampling Date: 1/16/2009 / Highest Value: **0.13** / Range**: 0.13** / Unit: ppb / MCL 3 / MCLG 3
Major Sources: Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Contaminant: **Fluoride** – Sampling Date: 1/16/2009 / Highest Value: **0.7** / Range: **0.7** / Unit: ppm / MCL 4 / MCLG 4
Major Sources: Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge for factories

Contaminant: **Lead -** Sampling Period: 2008 - 2010 / Level: **5** 90th percentile / Level: **12** 95th percentile / Sites over AL **1** / MCL: 15 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb
Major Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant: Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products Rule Monitoring / **Haloacetic Acid (HAA)** / Monitoring Period 4/1/2008-3/31/2009 / **RAA 31 / Range 17-41/** MCL: 60 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb
Major Sources: By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant: Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products Rule Monitoring / **TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes)** / Monitoring Period 2008 / **RAA 56 / Range 46-68 / /**MCL: 80 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb
Major Sources: By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant: **Turbidity -** Sampling Date: 2/24/2008 / Highest Level: **0.11 /** MCL: TT = 1 / Range: 0.05-0.11 / MCLG: n/a / Unit: NTU

Contaminant: **Turbidity -** Date: (Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting less than 95%) **None (**All Samples in Each Month Were = to 100%) / MCL: TT=0.3 NTU (in 95% of samples) / MCLG: n/a / Unit: %

Note: 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. The major sources of turbidity include soil runoff.
Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

During the period covered by this report we had NO violations of drinking water regulations.

Our water system tested a minimum of 20 monthly sample(s) in accordance with Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, **we had no noted detections for microbiological contaminants.**

Environmental Protection Agency Required Language: Health Effects

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for 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 (800)-426-4791.

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, the City of Gretna continues to make to make improvements to better serve our customers.

Please call our office if you have questions (504-363-1540).

We at the Gretna Waterworks work around the clock to provide drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and children's future.