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Jeff Shaver, Superintendent

2020 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The Stow Public Water System has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

What is the source of my water?

The City of Stow purchases its potable water from the City of Akron. This surface water is taken from the Upper Cuyahoga River, via three impounding reservoirs. Water is stored and released from two upstream reservoirs; the Wendell R. LaDue and East Branch, both located in Geauga County. These serve to supplement the Lake Rockwell Reservoir, located in Franklin Township, Portage County. Water is taken from Lake Rockwell, for treatment at the Lake Rockwell Treatment Plant, and pumped to Stow via a transmission main along North River Road.

Water is received at the Marsh Road and North Main Street (Munroe Falls) Booster Pump Stations. It is then distributed throughout our system. The Stow Public Water System serves over 34,000 residents, via 155+ miles of water main, and over 13,000 individual service taps within the City. The Stow Public Water System has been licensed to operate a public water system through the Ohio EPA since 2001.

For the purposes of the source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can readily be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens, with relatively short travel times from source to the intake. The drinking water source assessment for the City of Akron indicates that the source water is susceptible to potential contamination. Potential sources of contamination include agricultural runoff, home sewage disposal systems, failing on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems), municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges, and non-point sources. In addition, the source water is susceptible to contamination through derailments, motor vehicle accidents or spills at sites where the corridor zone is crossed by roads and rail lines, or at fuel storage and vehicle service areas located adjacent to the corridor zone. An assessment of our source water susceptibility to contamination was completed by Ohio in 2003, and determined that our source water has a moderate susceptibility. The report is available upon request. Since the EPA's assessment in 2003, Akron has taken further actions to strengthen the protection of its source water.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data, and therefore may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land uses and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time. While the source water for the City of Akron Public Water System is considered susceptible to contamination, historically the City of Akron Water System has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards.

Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the City of Akron are available by contacting Jeff Shaver at jshaver@stow.oh.us or at 330-689-2911

What are the possible sources of contamination to my drinking water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, streams, ponds reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land, or percolates down through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present include: (A) Microbials, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (B) Inorganics**,** such as salts and metals which can be naturally-occurring or the result of industrial or domestic discharges, oil and gas production, storm water run-off, farming, or mining; (C) Pesticides and Herbicides**,** which come from a variety of sources, including agricultural and urban storm water run-off, and residential uses; (D) Organic Chemicals**,** these include synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, also from gas stations, storm water run-off, and septic systems; (E) Radioactives**,** which can be naturally-occurring or from oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure the safety of our tap water, the EPA regulates the limits for each contaminant that may be found in public water systems. The FDA regulates contaminant limits in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants 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 **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.**

Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer and undergoing chemo therapy, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offer guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants by calling the **Safe Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791**

About your drinking water

The EPA requires public water systems to perform routine testing to insure the safety and quality of its drinking water. The City of Stow conducts routine bacteria sampling, at a rate of forty (40) samples per month, from designated, EPA approved, test sites throughout the city. All sampling for the calendar year of 2020 showed negative results for coliform bacteria meeting the EPA standards.

The following tables represent various substances found in your drinking water during the year 2018-2020. Some test results are supplied by the City of Akron, which maintains a state-of-the-art laboratory to monitor drinking water quality. Many other substances are routinely tested for, though not listed below. You may rest assured that those substances not listed were not found in your drinking water.

For a complete list of test results contact the **Akron Public Utilities Bureau** at **(330) 375-2554.** This report is also available on the internet at **http://www.ci.akron.oh.us**

Table of Detected Contaminants

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technologies.
MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MRDLG or Maximum Residual Detergent Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
AL or Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
Detected Level: The **average level** detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values, depending on the contaminant. (N.D. means None Detected)
Range: The range of values for samples tested for each contaminant.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
TT: Treatment Technique
ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
N.D: Not detected
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units
Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.

Results from the City of Stow

Contaminant	Year Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Violation	Major Source
Inorganic								
Copper*	2018 (3 year cycle)	ppm	1.3 Action Level	1.3 Action Level	.159	.0075 - .297	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead*	2018 (3 year cycle)	ppb	.015 Action Level	0	<1.13	<1 – 1.83	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Chemicals								
HAA5 Five Haloacetic Acids	2020	ug/L	60	N/A	25.960	7.40 – 51.80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes	2020	ug/L	80	N/A	51.107	21.5-78.3**	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*One of 30 samples was found to have lead and copper in excess of the Action Level of .015 for Lead and 1.3 for Copper
**The maximum Range of Detections is not a violation because individual samples are averaged with other samples before being compared with the maximum contaminant

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4

Contaminant (units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detections	Sample Location
Maganese (ppb)	2020	3.71		Entry Point
Bromochloracetic Acid (ppb)	2020	3.23	1.6-4.4	Distribution
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	4.99	2.4-8.2	Distribution
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	0.84	0.5-1.4	Distribution
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	16.28	4.6-39.7	Distribution
Tibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	<2.0	<2.0-<2.0	Distribution
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	18.16	7.9-41.9	Distribution
Total HAA5 (ppb)	2020	25.96	7.40-51.80	Distribution
Total HAA6 (ppb)	2020	9.34	6.50-13.40	Distribution
Total HAA9 (ppb)	2020	40.54	25.80-65.20	Distribution

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated containment monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated containment is in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In year 2020, City of Stow Water System participated in the fourth round of the Unregulated Containment Monitoring Rule UCMR 4. For a copy of the results please call City of Stow Water Department at (330) 689-2911.

Results from Akron

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Bacteriological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.12	0.03 - 0.12	NO	2020	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	N/A	TT	100%	100% - 100%	NO	2020	
Total Organic Carbon (compliance ratio)	N/A	TT	1.48	1.22-1.96	NO	2020	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (picocuries per liter)	0	15	3.6	NA	NO	2016	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium-226/228 (picocuries per liter)	0	5 combined	2.0	NA	NO	2016	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	<0.010	NA	NO	2020	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorite (ppm)	0.8	1.0	0.54	0.02-0.54	NO	2020	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.05	0.71 - 1.21	NO	2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.39	0.04 - 0.39	NO	2020	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Chemicals							
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	1.383	0.87-2.02	NO	2020	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDLG = 800	MRDL = 800	70	20 – 70	NO	2020	Water additive used to control microbes

*ppm: corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days
**ppb: corresponds to one second in 31.7 years
***All homes with initial results above the lead Action Level were properly retested and confirmed to be less that the lead Action Level of 15 ppb.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Akron's highest recorded turbidity result for 2020 was .12 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was .004

Not Under Ohio EPA Regulation but of General Interest

	Average Detected Level	Range
Alkalinity	78 mg/L	52-100 mg/L
Hardness (English units)	6 grains per gallon	4-8 grams per gallon
pH	7.3 units	7.0- 7.9 units
Sodium	201 mg/L	NA, one test, in 2020
Temperature (English Units)	57*F	36-81*F
Total Organic Carbon	2.84 mg/L	1.38– 3.57 mg/L
Total Solids	223 mg/L	NA, one test, in 2019

Lead Educational Information

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 Stow Public Water system 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 800-426-4791** or on the internet at **http:www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2020 the City of Stow had an unconditioned license to operate our public water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Stow City Council which meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month**.** For more information on your drinking water contact Jeff Shaver at 330-689-2911.