Is our water safe ?

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about where the water you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with all the information you need to know about the quality of the water source.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people living with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS or any other kind of immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their healthcare providers. EPA has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, which are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

Where does our water come from?

Columbia City's "raw" water is drawn from wells located in one well field near our water treatment facility at 920 E. Van Buren St, Water drawn from these wells is filtered, and chlorinated for disinfection. Then it is tested to ensure that the water is safe for consumption.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and the potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791. The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material or can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the raw, untreated water may include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or that result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming operations.

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

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production operations, and can also, result from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottled water, which must provide the same level of health protection for public health.

Our Watershed Protection Efforts

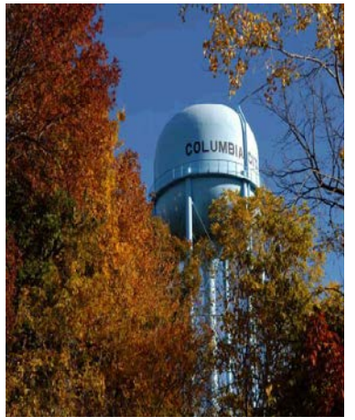
Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

Public Involvement Opportunities

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Mr. Mike Shoda at (260) 248-5118, or you can join us at our Board of Works Meetings, which are regularly held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 5:00 pm. We encourage you to participate and give us your feedback.

Columbia City Water Utility
920 E. Van Buren St.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Columbia City Water Utility



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2020 Consumer Confidence Report

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2019. IDEM requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/15/2019	1.3	1.3	0.126	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	8/15/2019	0	15	4.0	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant Results

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	8/21/18	<.002	.01	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	8/21/18	.168	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium	8/21/18	<.0003	5	.005	ppb	N	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries
Fluoride	8/21/18	.943	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2/16/19	.34	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	5/17/2019	14.9	<2-14.9	n/a	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	8/16/2019	58.5	15.8-58.5	n/a	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated Contaminant	Collection Date	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Violates	Likely Sources of Contamination
Nickel	8/21/18	.1	100	Ug/l	<0.005			N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Sodium	8/21/18	n/a		Mg/l	32.7			N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching

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.

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 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.

ppm: Parts per million- or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: Parts per billion- or once ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

n/a: Not applicable.

BDL: Below detectable level

Special Note on Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primary from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our system is responsible from 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, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Availability of a Source Water Assessment (SWA): An SWA has been prepared for our system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a low susceptibility risk. More information of this assessment can be obtained by contacting Mr. Mike Shoda at (260) 248-5118. You can also obtain addition information by contacting IDEM Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430.