



WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

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# 2009 Water Report

 **WRC**  
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER  
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# Is Your Water Safe to Drink?



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

# This is Your Annual Report on Drinking Water Quality.

## Consumer Confidence Report

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the federal law that ensures the quality of Americans' drinking water. Under SDWA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the state, local municipality and water supplier who implements those standards. Amendments to the SDWA require all public water systems with at least 15 service connections or a system that regularly serves at least 25 individuals to publish and distribute a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) annually.

The CCR increases the availability of information to water customers. Informed and involved customers can be strong allies

of their water systems, large and small, as they take action on water issues. Also, an increase in public awareness can give sensitive sub-populations the information that they may need for their protection.

In order to maintain water quality within your home, it is suggested by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office (WRC) that you remove and clean each faucet aerator twice annually. Aerators are the screens that screw into the end of the faucet. In addition, it is also recommended that you annually flush out the water heater and that you regularly maintain any in-home treatment equipment, such as water filters and softeners.

## Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Lead 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.

WRC 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 two 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 at 800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Contaminants

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 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:

**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 result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

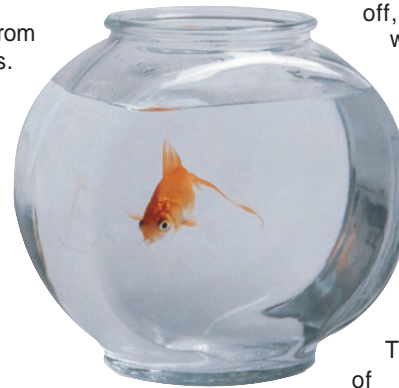
**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture,

storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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 public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 simply calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).



## Cross Connection Control Program

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) approved WRC Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP) was designed to protect your potable (drinking) water. A cross-connection is a link between a possible source of pollution

and a potable water supply. A pollutant may enter the potable water system by backpressure and/or via a back-siphon. The CCCP helps prevent backflow contamination protecting the quality of the water system, the safety and the public health of all water customers.



# 2009 Water Report

# Northeast Highland Township Well Water Supply System

## 2009 Consumer Confidence Report

Title XIV of the United States Public Health Service Act, (Chapter 373, 88 Stat. 1660), popularly known as The Safe Drinking Water Act, and The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (1976 PA399, amended to 1998 PA56) require a supplier of water to provide Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) to its customers. The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) is pleased to present the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (CCR) for the year 2009.

This report is designed to inform you about the water quality 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 supply system operation and to protect our water resources.

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The water source is groundwater found in glacial materials. Four wells (one 6", one 8" and two 12") provide the pumping capacity for this well water supply system (WSSN 3312).

A Wellhead Protection Program is designed to protect the public water supply system, which uses ground water, from potential sources of contamination. Protection includes identifying the area that contributes ground water to the well (delineation) and developing methods to manage the area to minimize the threat to the water supply. Highland Township has developed a Wellhead Protection Program; additional information is available under Services at [www.highlandtwp.com](http://www.highlandtwp.com). At this time, DNRE has determined the susceptibility for this water supply system as moderately low. The map below shows the delineated area.



If you have questions about this report, or your water utility, please contact your WRC representative, **Connie Sims, at 248-858-1441**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

### System Design and Improvements

We work continually to provide high quality water to every tap. 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 ask that all our customers help us conserve and protect our water resources, which impact our present life style and our children's future. Please call the WRC office at 248-858-1441, if you have questions, or visit our web site at [www.oakgov.com/water](http://www.oakgov.com/water).

### Your Water Quality

The Northeast Highland Township Well Water Supply System is routinely monitored, in accordance with the Public Acts, for contaminants in your drinking water. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009. In addition, other test results are shown for the year they were required, since annual testing is not required for some contaminants. The most recent test date for detected contaminants is listed in the tables.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Many of these contaminants affect water aesthetics and are not considered a health concern. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water and is set at a very stringent level. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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 the described health effect. Due to high iron levels, polyphosphate addition is performed as requested. Chlorination is required by the State as part of the treatment process.

As you can see by the tables, the **system had arsenic violations**. The running annual average for arsenic at the Axford Acres well site exceeded the MCL putting the water system in violation in 2009. However, the Axford Acres well **did not** pump to the water system in 2009. Only wells meeting the arsenic MCL provided water to the system. The Axford Acres well has been turned off and physically separated from the water system. Also, an arsenic well sample was not collected in the third quarter of 2009 creating a monitoring violation.

### Regulated Contaminants Table

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Detected Level	Range		Major Sources in Drinking Water	Violation
						Low	High		
<b>Regulated Inorganic and Volatile Organic Chemicals</b>									
Arsenic	2008 2009	ppb	0	10	28	7	28	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	Yes
Barium	2008	ppm	2	2	0.12	0.09	0.12	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride	2009	ppm	4	4	0.24	0.14	0.24	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Selenium	2008	ppb	50	50	1	0	1	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.	No
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>									
Combined 226 & 228 Radium	2008	pCi/l	0	5	1.9	1.9	1.9	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
<b>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfectant By-Products - Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>									
Total Trihalo-methanes	2007	ppb	NA	80	9.4	9.4	9.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	No
Disinfectant Residual (chlorine)	2009	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	0.37	0.0	1.12	Water additive used to control microbes.	No
<b>Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>									
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90th Percentile Value	Number of Samples Over AL		Major Sources in Drinking Water	Violation
Copper	2009	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.923	0		Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.	No
The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have copper and lead levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL, additional requirements must be met.									

### Unregulated Contaminants Table

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Average Level	Range		Major Sources in Drinking Water
						Low	High	
Chloride	2009	ppm	NA	NA	22	22	22	Naturally occurring due to geological processes.  Only the results from the primary well site, which provided 99% of the water to the water system in 2009, are included in this unregulated contaminants table.
Hardness	2009	ppm	NA	NA	259	259	259	
Iron	2009	ppm	NA	NA	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Sodium	2009	ppm	NA	NA	10	10	10	
Sulfate	2009	ppm	NA	NA	16	16	16	

### NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Federal Regulations require that as the billing customer, it is your responsibility to ensure that all water consumers at your facility (whether business, educational institute, apartments, etc...) have access to the report. Please post this CCR in a visible area. Additional copies are available for your distribution by contacting the WRC office at 248-858-1441.

### Important Definitions:

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

**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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - 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.

**Not Applicable (NA)**

**Not Detected (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates the contaminant is not present.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb)** - The ppb is equivalent to microgram per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram. A ppb is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts Per Million (ppm)** - The ppm is equivalent to milligram per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram. A ppm is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000.

**Picocuries Per Liter (pCi/l)** - A measure of radioactivity.

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)** - A family of four (4) halogenated organic chemicals. Reporting is based on running annual average.

**Arsenic** - Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.