

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Village of Niles

Utility Number IL0312010

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to  
December 31, 2011

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the Village of Niles water system to provide safe drinking water. The source of drinking water used by the Village is Niles is Lake Michigan and is purchased through the City of Chicago. For more information regarding this report contact Chris Colletti at (847) 588-7900.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*



*Niles Public Services Department  
6849 Touhy Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
(847) 588-7900*

### Source of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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, urban 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, 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.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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).

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

## Source Water Assessment Summary

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings held at 1000 Civic Center Drive at 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each calendar month except in December when the meeting shall be on the second Tuesday, at 8:00 p.m. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by the Nile Public Services Department or call our Water Plant Operator at 847-588-7900. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois SPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-factsheets.pl>.

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

## 2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### Village of Niles Water System

#### Lead and Copper

Definitions:

- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

Lead and Copper	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	0	15	5.51	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

#### Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of 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 (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant in drinking water 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.
- ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
- ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- n/a: not applicable.
- Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

#### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Chlorine	1/1/2011	0.9	0.629 – 0.9703	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*		15	7.94 – 12.98	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]		38	15.03 – 53.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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# No water quality violations were recorded during 2011 for the Village of Niles water system.

**Since the Village of Niles purchases Lake Michigan from the City of Chicago, water system information from Chicago is included in our report.**

## 2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected City of Chicago Water System

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
0	5% of monthly samples are positive	0.2	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.

### Lead and Copper

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Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/18/2009	1.3	1.3	0.0323	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	8/18/2009	0	15	6.07	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Chlorine	11/12/2009	0.8	0.702 – 0.8177	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*		11	5.3 – 14.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

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## 2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### City of Chicago Water System (Continued)

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)*		20	9.4 – 32.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

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Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Barium		0.0208	0.0201 – 0.0208	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride		0.9	0.809 – 0.917	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]		0.44	0.393 – 0.44	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium		66	66.3 – 66.4			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; Used in water softener regeneration.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source Of Contaminant
Combined Radium 226/228	3/17/2008	1.38	1.3 – 1.38	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	3/17/2008	0.88	0.09 – 0.88	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.86 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	99.5%	N	Soil runoff.

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