

Village of Niles – 2003 Water Quality Report

This year, as in years past, your tap water was tested according to USEPA and state drinking water health standards. Our system vigilantly safeguards its water supply, and we are working hard to continue providing the best water possible. This report summarizes the quality of water provided last year and informs you of any problems we are working to overcome. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This information is being supplied to you in conformance with the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water system, please contact Water Supply Manager Wally Kazakeich by telephone at (847) 588-6630 or by mail at 6849 Touhy Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, feel welcome to attend meetings discussing the water system. Announcements of any meetings will be posted at the Niles Administrative Offices, 1000 Civic Center Drive.

Lake Michigan is the sole source of water used to provide drinking water. The EPA has found the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 20 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing and as a scenic wonderland. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition. The IEPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment within the next three years. When completed, all sources of pollutants into Lake Michigan will be identified and there will be information regarding the sources water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. Since the quality of the raw water source is good, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation and sedimentation and sand filtration are adequate for producing a water that is free of harmful contaminants.

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

- 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 may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which may 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, USEPA prescribes regulations that 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.

In addition to the informational section of the Water Quality Report, we have included tables for your review. These tables will give you a better picture of the contaminants that were detected in your water and the contaminants that were tested for, but not detected.

Village of Niles

Regulated Contaminants Detected in 2002 (collected in 2002 unless noted)

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. Of Positive Total Coliform Samples in any month.	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples in 2002	Violation?	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1	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.	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

Regulated Contaminants	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Violation?	Likely Source of Contaminant
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
Total Halocetic Acids (HAA5)	13.5	8.3-13.5	ppb		60*	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	34	16-34	ppb	n/a	80*	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*MCL Statement: The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM and HAA5 is 80 ppm and 60 ppm respectively and is currently only applicable to surface water supplies that serve 10,000 or more people. These MCLs will become effective 01/01/2004 for all groundwater supplies and surface supplies serving less than 10,000 people. Until 01/01/2004, surface water supplies serving less than 10,000 people, any size water supply that purchase from a surface water source, and groundwater supplies serving more than 10,000 people must meet a state imposed TTHM MCL of 100 ppm. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

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

ppm: parts per million ppb: parts per billion ppt: parts per trillion pCi/l: picoCuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity)

2002 Source Water Assessment Summary

Based upon Section 141.153(b)2 of the CCR rule, community water supplies are required to report a summary of their source water susceptibility determination, which are compiled by the Illinois EPA.

The Village of Niles purchases water from the City of Chicago. The following information relates to their source water.

As of the date of this report, this summary has not been completed. The Illinois EPA will be completing all source water assessments. As this assessment becomes available, our supply will summarize the results and incorporate the information into this report, as required.

Further information on our community water supply's source water assessment is available on the USGS web site at <http://il.water.usgs.gov> or by calling the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787.

Data Tabulated by the Chicago Department of Water

2002 Water Quality Data

Definition of Terms

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.

Level Found: This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

nd: Not Detectable at testing limits. **n/a:** Not applicable

Detected Contaminants

Contaminant (unit of measurement) Typical Source of Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level found	Range of detections	Violation	Date of Sample
<u>Microbial Contaminants</u>						
TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA (% pos/mo) Naturally present in the environment.	5%	5%	1%			
TURBIDITY (%<0.3 NTU) Soil runoff.	n/a	TT	99.000	99.000 - 100.000		
TURBIDITY (NTU) Soil runoff.	n/a	TT=1NTUmax	0.430			
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>						
BARIUM (ppm) Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	2	2	0.020	0.019 - 0.020		
BERYLLIUM (ppb) Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.	4	4	1.000	nd - 1.000		
NITRATE (AS NITROGEN) (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.400	0.300 - 0.400		
NITRATE & NITRITE (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.400	0.300 - 0.400		
<u>Disinfectants\Disinfection By-Products</u>						
CHLORINE (AS Cl2) (ppm) [Drinking water disinfectant]	4.0	4.0	0.66	0.54 - 0.80		
<u>Radioactive Contaminants</u>						
BETA/PHOTON EMITTERS (pCi/l) Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	0	50	2.000	nd - 2.000		11/05/2001

Unregulated Contaminants

SULFATE (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.	n/a	n/a	19.600	13.200 - 19.600
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State Regulated Contaminants

FLUORIDE (ppm) Water additive which promotes strong teeth.	n/a	n/a	0.972	0.900 - 1.040
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SODIUM (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.	n/a	n/a	7.400	7.000 - 7.400
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Unit of Measurement

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter
ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water
%<0.5 NTU - Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU
% pos/mo - Percent positive samples per month
MRDL - Maximum residual disinfectant level
MRDLG - Maximum residual disinfectant level goal

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

FLUORIDE

Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

SODIUM

There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.