

The water you drink

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016.

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Tuscola to provide safe drinking water.

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 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.

Sources of water

Tuscola receives water solely from the Champaign Division of Illinois-American Water Company (IAWC). In 1994, a new 750,000 gallon water tower was built replacing the two old smaller towers. At that time a 14” water main was laid from Champaign to Tuscola. Upon completion of the new system, Tuscola began receiving water from IAWC. Subsequently, the old local wells which had supplied the City for years, were capped off as per Division of Mining regulations.

The source of supply for the Champaign County District is groundwater. To determine Illinois American Water Company-Champaign’s susceptibility to groundwater contamination, a Well Site Survey Report from February 1991 and a source inventory conducted in 1999 by the Illinois Rural Water Association in cooperation with the Illinois EPA, were reviewed. Based on the information contained in these documents, nineteen potential sources of groundwater contamination are present that could pose a hazard to groundwater pumped by the Illinois American Water Company-Champaign community water supply wells. These include three stores/sales, two printing companies, a manufacturing/processing of chemicals, a

warehouse, a vehicle sales, two lagoons, a construction/demolition co., two electrical generators/substations, three below ground fuel storages, a quarrying of material, two septic systems, and a well. The Illinois EPA has determined that Illinois American Water Company-Champaign Wells #35, #40, #41, #42, #43, #45, #46, and #47 are susceptible to IOC, VOC and SOC contaminations. Wells #53, #54, #55, #56, #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62, #63, #64, #65 and #66 are not susceptible to IOC, VOC or SOC contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeologic data for the wells.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. 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 EPA website at <http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx> . If you would like a summary of the information contained in this report contact Elizabeth Doellman, Water Quality Supervisor at 217-373-3273 or email at elizabeth.doellman@amwater.com.

Information about *all* drinking water

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 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is of high quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can’t see, taste or smell. It has been linked to lung cancer. It is found throughout the U.S. and can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in a foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes, and it can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Illinois American Water has monitored for radon for years. The Lincoln wells and finished water were sampled for radon in 2007. Finished water levels ranged from 140 – 194 pCi/L, with an average of 167 pCi/L. The USEPA is proposing limits on radon in drinking water depending on other steps that are used to reduce radon from other indoor sources. For information on radon in indoor air, call your local health department or the National Radon Hotline at 800-SOS-RADON.

Lead

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 City of Tuscola 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Important Health Information

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 USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

A Message for People with Severely Weakened Immune Systems

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan found in untreated surface waters throughout the United States (the organism is generally not present in a ground water source). Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, people with severely weakened immune systems have a risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage such people to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it is spread through means other than drinking water.

Your questions are welcome.

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 City Council meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. 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 City Hall or call (217) 253-2112. 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 EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl> or by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791.

Both IAWC and Tuscola Water Department conduct extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the data tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2016, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting these tables, see the “Definition of Terms” section and footnotes.

-Footnotes:

Beta/Photon emitters- The MCL for Beta/Photon emitters is written as 4 millirem/year (a measure of rate of radioactive decay). The EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

Chlorine and Chloramines are disinfecting agents added to control microbes that otherwise could cause waterborne diseases or other water quality concerns. Most water systems in Illinois are required by law to add either chlorine or chloramines. Levels well in excess of the MCL could cause irritation of the eyes or nose in some people.

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

Lead and Copper- Compliance with the lead and copper rule (LCR) is determined by the levels of lead and copper found in samples taken from customers' taps. LCR requirements are met if the 90th percentile of all samples taken does not exceed the action level of 15 ppb for lead or 1,300 ppm for copper. The "amount detected" reported in the data table refers to the level at the 90th percentile.

Sodium- There is no 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.

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

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known 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 2 Assessment: A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why and E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Ppb or ug/l- Parts per billion or micrograms per litre: one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

ppm or mg/l- Parts per million or milligrams per litre: one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

mrem: millirems per year; a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

PCi/l – Picocuries per liter, Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles)

nd: Not detected.

n/a: Not applicable.

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

214 N. Main
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-2112