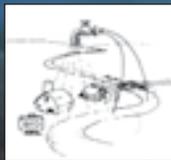


Presented By
Del-Co Water Company, Inc.



Annual
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Reporting Year 2011

PWS ID#: 2101412

Meeting the Challenge

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2011. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. Over the past five years, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go on the Web at www.Earth911.com to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Important Watering Notice

Because of excessive water usage during dry periods and the effect it has upon Del-Co's ability to meet essential health and safety needs in homes, businesses, and fire protection, Del-Co has set the following year-round mandatory watering restrictions:

- Addresses ending with an even number may water on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Addresses ending with an odd number may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

ABSOLUTELY NO WATERING ON MONDAYS!

Important 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 are 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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Del-Co's primary surface water supplies are the Olentangy River and the Alum Creek Reservoir. The Olentangy River runs for 88 miles, originating in Galion and flowing through the Scioto River. The Alum Creek Reservoir is located about ten miles southeast of Delaware and covers an average of 3,400 surface acres. Del-Co also has a groundwater supply from four wells rated at 1,300 gallons per minute each. Combined, our treatment facilities provide our customers with an average of nearly ten million gallons of drinking water per day.

The watershed for our water supply is part of the Upper Scioto Watershed, which covers an area of roughly 450 square miles on the Olentangy River and 125 square miles on Alum Creek. An average of 38 inches of rainfall annually refills the watershed. Snowmelt also contributes to the water supply. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed Web site at www.epa.gov/surf.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Damon Dye at (740) 548-4037 or Spencer Sheldon at (740) 548-7746.

Source Water Assessment

The Del-Co Water Company's primary sources of water are the Olentangy River and the Alum Creek Reservoir. These surface water sources supply water to three of the system's four water treatment plants: the Olentangy Plant, the Ralph E. Scott (Alum Creek) Plant, and the Timothy F. McNamara (Old State) Plant. Surface water is by its nature susceptible to contamination, and there are numerous potential contaminant sources, including agricultural runoff, oil/gas wells, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. As a result, the surface water supplied to these plants is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination.

Del-Co also obtains groundwater from its well field in Knox County, which is treated by the Thomas E. Steward Plant. In October of 2001, the Ohio EPA approved Del-Co's Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for this well field. The source water here is also considered to have a relatively high susceptibility to contamination, due to the lack of a significant confining layer above the sand and gravel aquifer and the presence of numerous potential contamination sources within the protection area. Historically, the Del-Co public water system has effectively treated its source waters to meet drinking water quality standards. By implementing measures to protect the Olentangy River, Alum Creek Reservoir, and the local aquifer, the potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased.

More information on Del-Co Water Company's Drinking Water Source Assessment reports may be obtained by calling the General Manager at (740) 548-7746.



Who uses the most water?

On a global average, most freshwater withdrawals—69 percent—are used for agriculture, while industry accounts for 23 percent and municipal use (drinking water, bathing and cleaning, and watering plants and grass) just 8 percent.

How much water does a person use every day?

The average person in the U.S. uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day. During medieval times, a person used only 5 gallons per day.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

Is it okay to use hot water from the tap for cooking and drinking?

No, always use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from household plumbing and water heaters. These substances can dissolve into hot water faster than they do into cold water, especially when the faucet has not been used for an extended period of time.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

Where does a water molecule spend most of its time on Earth?

In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken thousands of water samples in order to determine the presence of specific regulated and unregulated radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2011	15	0	5.7	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos (MFL)	2011	7	7	0.33	NA	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine (ppb)	2011	3	3	0.33	0.17–0.36	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2011	2	2	0.016	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2011	[4]	[4]	1.18	0.3–2.22	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2011	5	0	0.9	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2011	4	4	1.09	0.71–1.28	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2011	60	NA	42.92	2.08–57.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2011	10	10	1.95	ND–1.95	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Simazine (ppb)	2011	4	4	0.2	0.15–0.23	No	Herbicide runoff
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2011	80	NA	56.81	4.80–91.50	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] ¹ (removal ratio)	2011	TT	NA	1	1.0–2.32	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2011	TT	NA	0.3	0.05–0.3	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2011	TT	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2009	1.3	1.3	0.18	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2009	15	0	4.4	2/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

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

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.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2011	9.2	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2011	17	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2011	3.3	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR)³

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Dimethochlor ESA-UCMR (ppb)	2008	1.1	NA	NA

¹The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

³This contaminant was sampled under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) List 2 requirements. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For more information on the UCMR, call Spencer Sheldon at (740) 548-7746.