

# **Water Department - 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

## **HOW GOOD IS HAMMOND WATER?**

This is an Annual Quality Report delivered by the Hammond Water Works Department. Included is a listing of results from water quality tests as well as an explanation of where our water comes from and tips on how to interpret the data. We are proud to share our result with you. Please read them carefully. We are proud to report that the water provided by the Hammond Water Works Department meets or exceeds established water quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular meetings occur on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, at 6505 Columbia Avenue at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

Hammond Water Works Department is supplied by surface water from Lake Michigan.

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER?**

In 1995, the Hammond Water Works changed over to granular activated carbon rather the anthracite as a filter media to control taste and odor.

## **WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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.

## **WHERE DOES WATER COME FROM?**

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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) 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.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) 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.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

#### 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### Concerning Lead in Our Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **SUMMARY OF 2008 WATER QUALITY DATA**

How to read this data:

The results of tests performed in 2008 or the most recent testing available are presented in the table. Important definitions are presented below:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

**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.



DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	DATE TESTED	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL	RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
Total Haloacetic Acids	2008	ppb	n/a	60	4.0	3.8 – 4.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2008	ppb	n/a	80	13.5	9.5 – 18.2	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectant Residual	2008	ppm	n/a	n/a	1.6	1.1 - 2.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**WATER QUALITY TABLE FOOTNOTES:**

1. 100% of the samples tested were below the treatment technique level of 0.3 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
2. None of the samples tested for copper exceeded the current action level of 1.3 ppm.
3. One sample tested exceeded the action level of 0.015ppm. The 90th percentile was 0.0093 ppb.

**KEY TO TABLE**

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

TT = Treatment Technique

nd = none detected

n/a = not applicable