

WHAT ELSE MIGHT CONCERN ME?

For more information, call
The Hammond Water Filtration Plant
Hammond Water Works Department
at 219-853-6439.

Member of:
American Water Works Association
Indiana Rural Water Association
West Shore Water Producers Association

PWS ID #: 5245020

Hammond Water Works Department
6505 Columbia Avenue
Hammond, IN 46320



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Water Works Department

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

HOW GOOD IS HAMMOND WATER?

This is an Annual Water 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're proud to share our results 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 of the Board of Directors occur on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, at 6505 Columbia Avenue at 6:30 pm. 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 than anthracite as a filter media to control taste and odor. We have continued using this filter media and have recently invested four million dollars on various improvements to our Lake Michigan based Filtration Plant. Hammond residents continue to enjoy the lowest water rates in the State of Indiana.



Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

**WATER
FACT**

You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.

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).

**WATER
FACT**

Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Concerning Lead and Your Water

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 private service lines and home plumbing. The Hammond Water Works Department is 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 the 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 (800-426-4791) 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE

The results of tests performed in 2020 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 set 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.

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 (µg/L)

TT = Treatment Technique

nd = none detected

n/a = not applicable

SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA									
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS	DATE TESTED	UNIT	GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM ALLOWED (MCL)	DETECTED LEVEL	RANGE OF VALUES TESTED	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS		
Total Coliform	2020	% of Samples	0	≥5	2.5%	n/a	Naturally present in the environment		
Turbidity ¹	2020	NTU	n/a	TT	0.04-0.15	n/a	Soil runoff		
	Limit (Treatment Technique)			Level Detected		Violation			
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU			0.15 NTU		N	Soil runoff		
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU			100%		N	Soil runoff		
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	DATE TESTED	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL	RANGE	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS		
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2020	ppm	10.0	10.0	0.39	n/a	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage		
Barium	2020	ppm	2.0	2.0	0.021	n/a	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits		
Fluoride	2020	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.7	0.68-68	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		
LEAD AND COPPER	DATE SAMPLED	MCLG	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	90TH PERCENTILE	# SITES OVER AL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS	
Copper ²	09/11/2020	1.3	1.3	0.16	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Lead ³	09/11/2020	0	15.0	6.5	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	DATE TESTED	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	LEVEL	RANGE	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS		
Total Haloacetic Acids	2020	ppb	n/a	60	6.3	5.5-7.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	ppb	n/a	80	19.9	18.4-21.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Chlorine	2020	ppm	n/a	4.0	2.0	2.2	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
Atrazine ⁴	2020	ppb	3.0	3.0	BDL	BDL	By-product of drinking water chlorination		
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS	
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2018	0.54	0.54-0.54	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.	
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS	
2,4-D	05/07/2019	0.5	0.5-0.5	70	70	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.	
LEAD AND COPPER RULE									
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.									
Violation Type		Violation Begin		Violation End		Violation Explanation			
WQP LEVEL NON-COMPLIANCE (LCR)		07/01/2020		12/31/2020		Water samples showed that the corrosion control we use failed to consistently control the aggressive nature of our drinking water for the period indicated, thus likely increasing the amount of lead or copper in our drinking water			
REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE (RTCR)									
Violation Type		Violation Begin		Violation End		Violation Explanation			
MONITORING, ROUTINE, MINOR (RTCR)		04/01/2020		04/30/2020		We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.			

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. None of the samples test for lead exceeded the current action level of 15.0 ppb.

4. BDL = Below Detection Level of 0.1 ppb

SOURCE WATER INFORMATION

The Surface Water Source for The City of Hammond and its wholesale customers comes from Lake Michigan. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has assessed all surface water sources. In Indiana all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. Therefore, chemical treatment, filtration, and lab analysis ensures high quality drinking water. For more information please contact IDEM-Drinking Water Branch at (800) 451-6027.