

**City of Gibraltar**  
**Water and Sewer Department**  
**2014 Consumers Annual Report on Water Quality**  
**June 2015- WQR No. 17**

ATTENTION: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON WATER QUALITY AND SAFETY

**The City of Gibraltar is proud of the water it supplies and is honored to provide this report to you.**

**The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the City of Gibraltar Water and Sewer Department want you to know your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all federal and state standards for quality and safety**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is proud of the fine drinking water it supplies and is honored to provide this report to you. The 2014 Consumers' Annual Report on Water Quality shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water and health. We are pleased to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan Department of the Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

### **Detroit River Intakes**

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "low to very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards. DWSD has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. DWSD participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. If you would like to know more information about this report or a complete copy of this report please contact the City of Gibraltar Water Dept. at 734-676-3952.

### **About Our System**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department provides drinking water to approximately 4.2 million people in 126 southeastern Michigan communities, including the City of Gibraltar. The system uses water drawn from two intakes in the Detroit River; one to the north near the mouth of Lake St. Clair; and one to the south near Lake Erie. The water is directed to four (4) large water treatment plants for processing. A fifth water treatment plant located in St. Clair County uses surface water from Lake Huron. The City of Gibraltar receives water from the Southwest Treatment Plant.

### **How Do We Know The Water Is Safe To Drink?**

DWSD's treatment facilities operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The treatment process begins with disinfecting the source water with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called Alum is mixed with the water to

remove the fine particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Alum causes the particles to clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is also added to protect our teeth from cavities and decay.

The water then flows through fine sand filters called beds. These filters remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, a small amount of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added to the treated water just before it leaves the treatment plant. The phosphoric acid helps control the lead that may dissolve in water from household plumbing systems. The chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through water mains to reach your home.

In addition to a carefully controlled and monitored treatment process, the water is tested for a variety of substances before treatment, during various stages of treatment, and throughout the distribution system. Highly qualified, trained staff test hundreds of samples each week in DWSD's certified laboratories. Detroit water not only meets safety and health standards, but also ranks among the top 10 in the country for quality and value.

## **Additional Information**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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 that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking water Hotline at 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 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:**

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural and 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can 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, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **Important Health Information About Lead**

Since 1992, with the cooperation of many Gibraltar residents, the City of Gibraltar and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department have been testing homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Our latest round of testing showed no homes to have lead levels above the action level. If your home has a lead service line or piping that has lead soldered joints you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes.

-Run your water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes, or until it feels cold. This practice should be followed anytime your water has not been used for more than 6 hours.

-Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula.

-Use faucets and plumbing materials that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

**Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.**

## **People With Special Health Concerns**

"Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 1-(800-426-4791)."

## **National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance**

The City of Gibraltar is proud to report that our system met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2014.

## **Cost Comparison**

In Gibraltar, the tap water costs **\$7.18 per 1000 gallons**. Bottled water ranges anywhere from **\$1 to \$4 per gallon**.

\* Sewage disposal fees are in addition to water usage.

## **Opportunities for Public Participation**

The DWSD Board of Water Commissioners meets the third Wednesday of each month. There are also public hearings and meetings open to the public. To confirm dates and times, or for information on other DWSD activities happening in the department please contact the DWSD Public Affairs at (313) 964-9571. The City of Gibraltar's Council Meetings are held the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City of Gibraltar Municipal Complex, 29450 Munro, Gibraltar, MI.

The City of Gibraltar welcomes your comments and opinions about this report and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please direct your comments or questions to the Gibraltar Water and Sewer Department at (734) 676-3952.

## **Other Monitoring**

In addition to testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of the highest quality. If you are interested in a more detailed report, contact the City of Gibraltar Water and Sewer Department at (734) 676-3952.

## **Educational Information about Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Gibraltar 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 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 1-(800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **2009 Cryptosporidium Language**

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Cryptosporidium was detected once, during a twelve-month period at our Detroit River intake plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. 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, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

**Southwest Water Treatment Plant  
2014 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables**

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	5/13/2014	ppm	4	4	0.56	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	5/13/2014	ppm	10	10	0.29	N/A	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

<b>Disinfection By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest LRAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	ppb	N/A	80	30	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2014	ppb	N/A	60	10	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

<b>Disinfection – Monitoring in Distribution System</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDGL	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest RAA	Range of Detection	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	2014	ppm	4	4	0.64	0.52-0.73	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

<b>2014 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>			
Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.14 NTU	100%	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.			

<b>2014 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System</b>					
Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	In one month 0	No	Naturally present in the environment.
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E.coli</i> positive.	Entire year 0	No	Human waste and animal fecal waste.

<b>2014 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Tap</b>								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2014	ppb	0	15	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2014	ppm	1.3	1.3	.154	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

\*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each quarter and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Combined Radium Radium 226 and 228	5/13/2014	pCi/L	0	5	0.65 + or - 0.54	No	Erosion of natural deposits

2014 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	5.41	Erosion of natural deposits

Collection and sampling result information in the table provided by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Water Quality Division, ML Semegen.

## KEY TO THE DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	
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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
mg/L	Milligrams per liter	A milligram = 1/1000 gram 1 milligrams per liter is equal to 1 ppm
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of 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. MRLDG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	Not Applicable	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity. Picocurie (pCi) means the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.