

2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR DECORAH

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our groundwater is drawn from the Alluvial, and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter) aquifer(s).

Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	1.3	2/3/03		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2		2/3/03	0.07-0.12	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3	2/3/03-12/7/04	0.73-1.3	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10		2004	2.15-8.1	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.2	6/5/02	0.2	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	10.69	2/3/03	6.82-17.2	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3		8-12-04	0.019-0.682	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15		8-12-04	0.005-0.012	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80		8-3-04	14.6	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60		8-3-04	10.2	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. As you can see by our table, our system has no violations. The City of Decorah's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. Although we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that our water is safe. The City Water Dept. takes 9 bacteriological samples from various sites each month. The results of these samples are available at the Decorah Water Department.

DEFINITIONS

- 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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected

- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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).

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Nitrite in drinking water at levels above 1 ppm is a health risk of infants of less than six months of age. High nitrite levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. 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).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The City of Decorah's water supply obtains its water from the alluvial aquifer and the Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter). These aquifers were determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The wells will be most susceptible to activities such as dry cleaners, gas stations, industrial sites, and municipal wastewater dischargers. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from David M. Pahlas of the Decorah Water Department at 800 W. Water St. or by phoning 563-382-5171.

OTHER INFORMATION

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon 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. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program (800-838-5992) or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-767-7236). Our water utility is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water tower, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please contact us at 382-5171 or the local police/sheriff department. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information, please contact David M. Pahlas, Decorah Water Department at 1-563-382-5171 during the following hours: 7-5 Monday thru Friday.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Utility Committee meetings and then approved at the City Council Meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall and are open to the public. The City Council and Utility Comm. Meetings are posted at the City Hall 24 hours in advance of meetings, and submitted to the media. Citizens may also contact City Hall or the Water Dept. for information on such meetings.

YOU MAY ALSO PICK UP A COPY OF THIS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AT THE FOLLOWIN LOCATIONS:

DECORAH CITY HALL	400 CLAIBORNE DR.	563-382-3651
DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY	202 WINNEBAGO ST.	563-382-3717
DECORAH WATER DEPT.	800 W. WATER ST.	563-382-5171

WE WON'T BE MAILING THIS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD'S OR TO BUSINESS'S.