

Water Quality Report January 1 - December 31, 2009
St. Bernard Parish's Water & Sewer Division Public Water Supply ID 1087001

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual Water Quality Report. This report is required by the Environmental Protection Agency through the Safe Drinking Water Act and is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is one surface water intake on the **Mississippi River ID # 1087001-001**. The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive materials 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 sewerage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants – Such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or results 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants – which can be natural-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed source through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility rating of 'high'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at the number provided in the following paragraph. The Source of the Water Treated in St. Bernard Parish is the **Mississippi River**.

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. St. Bernard Parish Water 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 about 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 have you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safer Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov.safewater/lead>.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, or simple want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact **Jacob Groby Quality Control Supt., at (504) 271-1681**. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility.

The Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009. We detected the following regulated contaminants at levels well below the maximum contaminant level. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. Additionally, we wish to inform you that these samples, except for lead and copper results, were collected at our treatment plant. The last chemical sampling of our treated water was collected 11/29/2009. We at the St. Bernard Parish Water Treatment Division work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future

In the tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligram per liter (mg/l) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Microgram per liter (µg/l) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l) - One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Nanograms per liter (pg/l) - One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) - Picocuries per liter is a measurement of radiation in the water.

Millrems per year liter (pCi/l) – Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million fibers per liter (MFL) – Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. **Turbidity** is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

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 treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminate in the drinking water.

Variations & Exemption (V&E) – State or EPA permission not to meet the MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" is 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) - The “Maximum Allowed” is 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The “Goal” 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.

During the monitoring period 2009 covered by this report we had NO VIOLATIONS of drinking water regulations.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water contain beta particle and photon radioactivity in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increase risk of getting Cancer. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

On the next page, we have shown the regulated contaminates that were detected at levels BELOW their maximum contaminate level. These samples, except for Lead and Copper results and surface water systems, were collected at the raw water source and represent water before any treatment, blending or distribution. As such, the consumer tap levels could be less. Chemical sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual; therefore, information provided in this table refer back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Regulated Contaminates	Coll. Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Sources
Arsenic	4/20/2009	1	1	ppb	10		Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Fluoride	4/20/2009	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate - Nitrite	4/20/2009	2	2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewerage, erosion of natural deposits
Simazine	4/7/2008	0.12	0.12	ppb	4	4	Herbicide Runoff
Turbidity	4/28/2008	0.2	0.2	NTU	1.0		Soil Runoff
Turbidity HSS	1/16/2009	0.21		NTU	1.0		Soil Runoff
Turbidity LMA	100%	Compliance	For the	Report	Period		Soil Runoff
Lead and Copper	Date	90th. Percentile	95th. Percentile	Unit	AL	Sites over AL	Typical Sources
Free Copper	2005 - 07	0.8	0.9	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2005 - 07	2	5	ppb	15	1	
Contaminates	Meets Require.	Unit	Result	EPA MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	
Trihalomethane Total (TTHMS)	Yes	ppb	5 - 37	Avg. of 80 ppb	N/A	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	
Haloacetic Acids Total (HAA5s)	Yes	ppb	0 - 44	Avg. of 60 ppb	N/A	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	

Our Water system tested a minimum of 30 samples in accordance with the Total Coliform rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, we had below noted violation of drinking water regulation. * NO DETECTED RESULTS WERE FOUND IN THE CALENDER YEAR OF 2009 *****

MCL: For the systems that collect more than 39 samples per month, if 5 percent are positive for coliform. For systems that collect less than 40 samples per month, if 1 sample is positive for coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environmental and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Under the Stage 2 Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of out distribution. This is kknown as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE), and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system with elevated disinfection byproducts (Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] and Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]) concentrations. The IDSE monitoring results are **NOT** used for compliance with the TTHM and HAA5 maximum contaminate levels under the Stage 1 DBPR, but will be used to determine the locations for the Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring, beginning in 2012 for some water systems. See the table above for the range (lowest/highest detect) of our IDSE results. For some systems the IDSE monitoring period straddles two calendar years and as such he IDSE data will be split between two CCR's

Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer

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 health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).