

City of La Porte

Drinking Water Quality Report 2007

July 1, 2007

PWSID # 5246017

What is the Purpose of This Report?

The City of La Porte Water Department wants you to know that your tap water is safe to drink and that it *meets or surpasses* all 2006 Federal and State monitoring and reporting standards for quality and safety. This report shows the source of La Porte's water, lists the results of water quality tests performed on La Porte's water, and contains important information about water and your health.

Where does La Porte's water come From?

Water Source—The City of La Porte is supplied by groundwater pumped from a total of 7 wells in 3 well fields. All the wells are part of the Kankakee River Basin Aquifer.

Water Treatment—Water from the wells is pumped to one of two treatment and filtration plants. Before it reaches your tap, the water is aerated, filtered, and treated with low levels of chlorine and fluoride. A low level of orthophosphate is added to control corrosion of pipes. After treatment, water is pumped to the system on demand.

Distribution System—The water distribution system consists of over 125 miles of iron pipes forming a grid shaped network. There are more than 1000 valves, 800 fire hydrants, and 7,800 water service lines attached to the network. Water is stored in a 1.2 million gallon concrete reservoir and 3 – 500,000 gallon elevated storage tanks. Water treatment and distribution processes are controlled by a computer based system and a plant operator is on duty 24 hours per day.

Should I be concerned about drinking the City's water?

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. However, 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 risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

What do you mean by contaminants?

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 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(SOC) and volatile organics (VOC), 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 are naturally occurring or could be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

“La Porte’s tap water meets or surpasses all 2006 Federal and State standards for quality and safety.”

Is the water tested for lead?

With the cooperation of several La Porte residents, the La Porte Water Department has been collecting samples from homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. The results of this testing show that lead levels are below action level. However, if your home is older and you believe it could have a lead service line or has 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.

- Anytime your water has not been used for more than six hours, run your water for 30 seconds to two minutes.
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula.
- Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

Who is responsible for safe drinking water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of specific contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In turn, the City annually tests the water to ensure the regulations are being met. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for public health. The table on the right illustrates the schedule of water testing followed by the La Porte Water Department for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 results presented in this report.

Regulated Contaminants	2006	2005	2004
• VOC's		Annual	
• SOC's*	2nd & 3rd qtrs		
• IOC's		Annual	
• Nitrate	Annual	Annual	Annual
Other Monitoring			
• Bacteriological	25 per month	25 per month	25 per month
• Sodium		Annual	
• Lead & Copper		30 samples June-September	
• TTHMs&HAA5	1/qtr/plant	1/qtr/plant	1/qtr/plant
• CCR	Due by 7/1	Due by 7/1	Due by 7/1

The results of tests performed in 2006 or the most recent testing available are presented in the table below. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

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: 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.

Detected Level: The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

Action Level or AL: The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Range: The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Regulated Detected Contaminant Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Barium	2005	ppm	2	2	0.10	.010-0.12	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; natural deposits
Chromium	2005	ppb	100	100	5.9	5.9-6.5	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2006	ppm	4	4	1.1	.8-1.3	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nickel	2005	ppm	na	0.1	.011	.011-.012	Naturally present in environment; industrial process
Sodium	2005	ppm	na	na	22	22-34	Naturally present in the environment; Industrial processes
Copper (1)	2005	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.14	---	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (2)	2005	ppb	0	AL=15	3.4	---	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2006	ppb	na	80	29.7	19.0-29.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic acids)	2006	ppb	na	60	15.3	2.0-15.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l), **ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l), **na** = not applicable, **nd** = none detected

Water Quality Table Notes – (1) No samples tested for copper exceeded the current Action Level of 1.3 ppm. (2) Zero samples tested for lead exceeded the current Action Level of 15 ppb. These samples were taken from homes with lead plumbing. Treated water coming from the La Porte Water System contains no lead.