

Drinking Water Quality Report 2006

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La Porte Water Meets All EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Standards

We are proud to report that the water provided by the City of La Porte Water Department meets or exceeds the water quality standards set by the EPA through the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report explains that our drinking water is of the highest quality. 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. Please read them carefully.



Overview

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.

Important Health 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 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).

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 (IOCs), such as road 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. **(C)** Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water, runoff, and residential uses. **(D)** Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals (SOCs & VOCs), which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. **(E)** 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, the 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.

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)

The following table illustrates the framework for water testing by the City of La Porte for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 results presented in this report.

| Regulated Contaminants | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| • VOCs | Annual | | |
| • SOCs* | | | 2nd & 3rd qtrs |
| • IOCs | Annual | | |
| • Nitrate | Annual | Annual | Annual |
| Other Monitoring Requirements | | | |
| • Bacteriological | 25 per month | 25 per month | 25 per month |
| • Sodium | Annual | | |
| • Lead & Copper | 30 samples June- | | |
| • 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 2005 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.

The City of La Porte encourages all citizens to actively protect the regions drinking water resources. This can be done by using common sense. The water for La Porte is drawn from underground sources. The geological characteristics that create our abundant underground water resources also make them vulnerable to contamination from the surface activities of man. Carefully manage how you use such items as petroleum products, paint, pesticides, and other common household chemicals. Dispose of excess chemicals in the manner directed by the label instructions. It is very simple. **“Don't dump anything on the ground that you wouldn't want to drink some day.”**

WATER QUALITY 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 | 2005 | 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 | 2005 | ppb | na | 80 | 21.4 | 12.9-21.4 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| HAA5 | 2005 | ppb | na | 60 | 15.2 | 7.3-15.2 | 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.