

# LAKE TOWNSHIP WATER SYSTEM

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## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT: 2005 Water Quality Report

Beginning in October of 1999, the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act required that all community water systems provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. Many substances found in Lake Township Water have been previously reported in the Lake Township newsletter. We take pride in reporting that the drinking water provided by Lake Township Water System meets or exceeds established water quality standards.

This report covers the drinking water quality for Lake Township Water System for 2005. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Our microbiology laboratory is certified by the state in two test methodologies to doubly ensure the quality and safety of Lake Township drinking water. We are members of two international organizations for water professionals: the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA). All personnel who work at our facility are licensed professionals with an average number of 21 years experience.

Lake Township Water is pumped from Lake Michigan at an average rate of 1.85 million gallons per day. It is mixed with chlorine and aluminum sulfate and stays for a period of time in four large tanks to allow disinfection and the settling out of sand. It is then filtered and the quality is ensured by over 700 tests performed per day, every day of the year. Once the drinking water is pumped from the plant, it is checked for chlorine and any possible microorganisms. We also contract with eight independent laboratories for the testing of over 200 possible contaminants that could possibly enter a water supply.

Federal law also requires that we explain the contaminants that may be present in source water (untreated water), not just Lake Michigan but other types of source water as well. These 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 the land and 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 human activity.

Contaminants that might be expected to be in source water (untreated 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 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 naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by the public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in this report:**

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - “The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.”

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - “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.”

Part per million - ppm - One part per million.

Part per billion - ppb - One part per billion.

ND - not detected.

pCi/L - pico Curies per liter

USEPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

FDA - Food and Drug Administration

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

Turbidity - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtering system.

Unregulated contaminants - those contaminants for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose being the monitoring of these contaminants to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

90<sup>th</sup> percentile - 90 percent of the samples were below the number listed

THM - trihalomethanes, a by-product of drinking water chlorination

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow

CDC - Center for Disease Control

***SUMMARY OF WATER CHARACTERISTICS***

**Contaminants in water supplies are grouped in the following manner:**

- i Contaminants subject to an MCL
- ii Contaminants for which monitoring is required by Section 141.40 (unregulated contaminants) of the Safe Water Drinking Act (SWDA)
- iii The regulated disinfection by-products found in our water are THM's, specifically.

**Vulnerability of sub-populations:**

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

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Opportunities for the Public to participate include Township Board meetings, special meetings, and plant tours. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, call Stewart A. Beach at 269-465-3850. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/) .

**Contaminants and their presence in 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

Your water comes from Lake Michigan. The State performed an assessment in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative low potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from “very-low” to “very-high” based primarily on land uses and potential contaminant sources within the source water area. The Lake Township Water System source water is categorized with moderately high susceptibility given land uses and potential contaminant sources within the source area. Lake Township Water System has instituted pollution prevention programs and is cognizant of additional potential threats to its source of drinking water.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2005 COMPLIANCE DATA COLLECTED**

The presence of contaminants in the drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk. The levels (if any) found in Lake Township Water do not necessarily pose a health risk. However, federal law requires we report the highest level of any contaminant detected in our treated water to you. These results are listed in the tables of the next two pages. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table

<u>Analyte Name</u>	<u>Test result</u>	<u>MCL</u> ppm	<u>Source of</u> <u>Contamination</u>	<u>Min. Rpt. Level</u> ( MCLG)
Fluoride (Automated) - regulated	0.1 ppm 3/16/05	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	4 ppm
Nitrate as N (Automated) - regulated	0.4 ppm 3/16/05	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	10 ppm
Sulfate (Automated) Unregulated	24 ppm 3/16/05		Erosion of natural deposits, water additive to enhance coagulation and settling of particles	NR
Chloride (Automated)	11 ppm 3/16/05		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff	NR
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> Unregulated	123 ppm 3/16/05		Erosion of natural deposits	NR
Sodium (Automated) Unregulated	8 ppm 3/16/05		Erosion of natural deposits	NR
Total Organic Carbon *	1.0 monthly average	Treatment Technique Removal Ratio >1.0	Naturally present in the environment.	Treatment Technique Removal Ratio >1.0
Total Trihalomethanes	30.2 ppb 4/1/05 – highest. Range 23 to 30, highest running annual average = 27 ppb	100 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	NA

\* The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by the state.  
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards.  
Monitoring helps EPA to determine whether contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

### Turbidity Monitoring at the Plant

Clarity	2005 Average	MCL	Lowest Monthly % Meeting the MCL	MCLG
Filter Effluent Turbidity	0.05 NTU	0.5 NTU	100%	NA

Highest single measurement was .23 NTU as measured by HACH turbidimeter.

### Radiation

Analyte Name	Test Result	MCL	Source of Contamination	Min. Rpt. Level (MCLG)
Gross alpha	<1.3 pCi/L	15.0*	Erosion of natural deposits	0
Radium 226	<0.03 pCi/L	5.0*	Erosion of natural deposits	0
Radium 228**	<1.6 pCi/L	5.0*	Erosion of natural deposits	0

\*picoCuries per Liter

\*\* 266/228 radium combined - Detected 1.2 pCi/L

### Lead and Copper – 9/27/03

	Test Results	AL	Source of Contamination	MCLG	> AL
Lead - ppb - 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile MCL = AL	4 ppb 9/27/03	15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	0 ppb	0
Copper - ppm - 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	78 ppb 9/27/03	1300 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives	1300 ppb	0

### Microbiology

	MCL	MCLG	Source of Contamination	Test Result
Total Coliform	Presence in >5 % of monthly samples	0	Environmental bacteria, soil runoff	0
Fecal Coliform	Presence in more than 1 sample per month	0	Soil runoff, sewage, animal droppings	0