



## Water Quality Report 2012

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Second Tuesday each month at 6:00 PM



This report is designed to inform the public about the quality of water and services provided on a daily basis. Our commitment is to provide a safe, clean, and reliable supply of drinking water. We want to assure that we will continue to monitor, improve, and protect the water system and deliver a high quality product.

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 may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Oldham County Water District customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from a groundwater source. The Oldham County Water Treatment Plant draws water from the Ohio River alluvium, which holds several billion gallons of water. The Oldham County Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1981 to draw from this underground water supply. The treatment facility provides roughly 1.5 billion gallons of clean drinking water every year.

Oldham County Water District treats groundwater drawn from a network of wells drilled into the Ohio River alluvial aquifer. An analysis of the susceptibility of the District's water supply to contamination indicates that this susceptibility is generally moderate. There are, however, a few areas of concern in the immediate vicinity of our water wells. These include row crops, septic systems, some permitted operations, and road exposure that cumulatively increase the potential for release of contaminants within the wellhead protection area. The summary of the water systems susceptibility to contamination is part of the completed Wellhead Protection Plan that is available for inspection during normal business hours at our office.

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 may 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, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides,

(stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential uses). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or mining activities). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to 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 the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Information About Lead:

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. Your local public water system 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 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 can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with administrative regulations in 401 KAR Chapter 8. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data in this table, though representative, may be more than one year old. Unless otherwise noted, the report level is the highest level detected.

<b>Regulated Contaminant Test Results</b>								
<b>Contaminant [code] (units)</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Report Level</b>	<b>Range of Detection</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>	
Alpha emitters [4000] (pCi/L)	15	0	0.43	0.43 to 0.43	Apr-09	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	0.54	0.54 to 0.54	Apr-09	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Uranium (µg/L)	30	0	0.07	0.07 to 0.07	Apr-09	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.042	0.042 to 0.042	Jan-11	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.396 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.042 to 0.448	Jul-10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	1.10	0.87 to 1.37	Aug 2012	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	
Lead [1030] (ppb) sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	1.9 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0 to 3.7	Jul-10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	1.380	0.31 to 1.38	Jul-12	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.14 (highest average)	0.78 to 1.68	N/A	No	Water additive used to control microbes.	
HAA (ppb) (all sites) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	7 (system average)	4 to 9 (range of system sites)	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
TTHM (ppb) (all sites) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	24 (system average)	16 to 33 (range of system sites)	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	

**Some or all of these definitions may be found in this report:**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Below Detection Levels (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** - does not apply.

**Parts per million (ppm)** - or milligrams 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 micrograms 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)** - 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)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

**Variances & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.