

# 2008

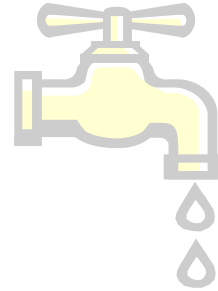
# TOWN OF OWENSVILLE WATER QUALITY REPORT

## IS OUR WATER SAFE?

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. Included, as parts of this report are details about where the water that you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana standards. We are committed to providing you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other kinds of 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 has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. These guidelines are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Town of Owensville gets its water from a ground water system or what is known as an underground aquifer. There is no filtration system. Raw water from the aquifers is treated at the plant with three chemicals. Chlorine is added to kill pathogens, which are diseases causing organisms, fluoride is added to protect teeth, and phosphate is used to prevent non-corrosiveness in the plumbing. The system has four wells. Two wells run simultaneously to bring nitrate concentration levels in the water below the maximum contamination level set by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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, or can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

### Contaminants that may be present in the raw, untreated water may 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 that result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming operations.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production operations, and can also result from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottled water, which must provide the same level of health protection for public health.

#### WATER QUALITY DATA

The table on the next page lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2007 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2007. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may however be more than one year old.

Some of the terms and abbreviations used in this report are:

<b>MCL:</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
<b>MCLG:</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>MRDL:</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
<b>MRDLG:</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>AL:</b>	Action Level; the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements or actions which a system must follow.
<b>TT:</b>	Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>NTU:</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the clarity (or cloudiness) of water.
<b>ppm:</b>	Parts per million, a measure for concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.
<b>ppb:</b>	Parts per billion, a measure for concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter.
<b>pCi/L:</b>	Picocuries per liter a measure of radiation.
<b>P*:</b>	Potential violation, one that is likely to occur in the near future once the system has sampled for four quarters.
<b>n/a:</b>	Either not available or not applicable.
<b>ND:</b>	Not Detected, the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.

## Section I - Contaminants Detected

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
Valid until 12/31/08	Copper (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/l	.324				No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
6/3/2005	Fluoride	4	4	mg/l	1.016	.862	1.17		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
11/15/2007	Nitrate (as N)	10	10	mg/l	7.19083	5.08	9.5		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2007	Total Haloacetic Acids (haa5)	60		ug/l	1.0	1.0	1.0		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2007	Total Trihalomethanes (tthm)	80		ug/l	8.5	8.5	8.5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Radiological Contaminants

DATE	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
5/27/2003	Radium-228	5	0	pci/l	.6				No	Erosion of natural deposits.

### Unregulated Contaminants

DATE	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
6/6/2005	Sodium	n/a		mg/l	26.6				No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

### Residual Disinfectant

DATE	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
2007	Chlorine Residual	4 MRDL		mg/l	0.57	0.38	0.67		No	Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbiological organisms
<b>Special Note on Lead:</b>		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. Our 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 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a> .								
<b>Special Note on Nitrate:</b>		Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.								

#### OUR WATERSHED PROTECTION EFFORTS

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of your drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Mr. Randy Ross at 812-724-3909. Or you can join us at our Board Meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month beginning at 6:30p.m. The meetings are held at the Owensville Town Hall at 108 W. Brummitt Street, Owensville, IN 47665. We encourage you to participate and to give us your feedback.

#### PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Large water volume customers (like apartment complexes, hospitals, schools, and/or industries) are encouraged to post extra copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This "good faith" effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of the water that they consume.

TOWN OF OWENSVILLE  
108 W. BRUMMITT STREET  
P.O. BOX 296  
OWENSVILLE, IN 47665

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