

The **City of Upper Sandusky Water System** has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts. The City of Upper Sandusky takes pride in assuring you of your drinking water's safety.

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the City of Upper Sandusky Service Committee, which meets the first and third Monday of every month at 5:30 PM in the Municipal Building.

**For more information** on your drinking water, contact:

Mr. Dave Westbrook  
Water Treatment Plant Supervisor  
(419) 294-2416  
Monday thru Friday  
7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Copies of this report may be obtained at the City's water office in the Municipal Building or on the web at:

[www.upperSanduskyoh.com/ccr/index.shtml](http://www.upperSanduskyoh.com/ccr/index.shtml)

Additional information about the requirements for the Consumer Confidence Report may be obtained at the Ohio EPA web site at:

[www.epa.gov/ogwdw](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw)



**A Service of the  
City of Upper Sandusky**  
119 North Seventh Street  
Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

# Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report 2011



### **What's Inside...**

- Where does our drinking water come from?
- How is our water tested?
- What is the quality of our water?

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Where does my drinking water come from?**

The City of Upper Sandusky public water system uses surface water drawn from an intake on the Sandusky River. For the purposes of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare. The City of Upper Sandusky's drinking water source protection area contains potential contaminant sources such as agricultural runoff, commercial and industrial sources, leaking above-ground and underground storage tanks, home construction activities, quarry activities, oil and gas wells, roadways and railways.

The City of Upper Sandusky's public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the Sandusky River. More detailed information is provided in the City of Upper Sandusky's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling Dave Westbrook, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor at (419) 294-2416

#### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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 and volatile organic chemicals, 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 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, USEPA 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.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

#### **What is Turbidity?**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 0.5 NTU at any time. The Upper Sandusky Water System's highest recorded turbidity result for 2011 was 0.29 NTU and the percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

#### **Total Coliform Bacteria**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

## Special Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. Upper Sandusky 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## The Quality of your Water:

Listed on this page is information on contaminants that were found in the drinking water of the Upper Sandusky Water System.

## Drinking Water Regulations

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Upper Sandusky Water System conducted sampling for Turbidity, Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Fluoride, Nitrate, Nitrite, Barium, Phosphorus, Alachlor, Arsenic, Atrazine, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Mercury, Selenium, Simazine, Toluene, Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Chloroform, Dibromo-chloromethane Cyanazine, Acetochlor, and Propazine during 2011. Samples were collected for over 60 different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the City of Upper Sandusky water supply.

The Ohio EPA requires monitoring of some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

### Definitions

**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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant.

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

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

**Not Detected (ND):** A result of ND means that no contaminant was detected in the sample.

**Not Applicable (NA):** A range of NA means that there was only one sample taken.

**Not Regulated (NR):** A value of NR means that the contaminant is not regulated although the EPA requires monitoring.

**The “<” Symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A common measure of radioactivity.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.29	0.08 - 0.29	NO	2011	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%<0.3	0.08 - 0.29	NO	2011	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	NA	TT	1.29	1.16 - 1.51	NO	2011	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	0	1	0	NA	NO	2011	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.12	ND - 0.12	NO	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.34	1.02 - 1.34	NO	2011	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<5.0	ND - 5.0	NO	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.41	<0.10 – 0.80	NO	2011	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>							
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.18	0.30 - 0.40	NO	2011	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
<b>Disinfectant Residuals</b>							
Total Chlorine	4	4	1.39	0.95 - 1.80	NO	2011	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	AL=50	0	NA	NO	2011	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
Halo acetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	0	60	29.04	10.9 - 50.1	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Bromoform	NA	80	<0.50	NA	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Bromodichloromethane	NA	80	14	NA	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Dibromochloromethane	NA	80	3.4	NA	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Chloroform	NA	80	30	NA	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethane) (ppb)	0	80	58.13	25.6 - 107.4	NO	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.024	.024 -- .024	NO	2011	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	<0.5	N/A	NO	2010	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries & paints