

**The Town of Selbyville
68 W. Church Street
Selbyville, DE 19975
PWSID# DE0000654
June 12, 2009**

For the year 2008

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

During 2008 we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 7 of those contaminants and found only 2 at a level higher than the EPA allows. (For more information see the section labeled Special monitoring requirements violations.) This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Our water supply comes from ground water. Our wells draw from the Columbia Aquifer.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Division of Public Health in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has conducted source water assessments for nearly all community water systems in Delaware. Contact the Selbyville Water Department at 302-436-8314 regarding how to obtain a copy of this assessment.

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 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 (EPA) 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health

How can I get involved?

If you have questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, please contact Town Administrator, Robert Dickerson, or Water Plant Manager, Ron Foskey, at 302-436-8314. If you want to learn more about our town in general, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town meetings. They are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 o'clock P.M. at the Selbyville Town Hall, 68 West Church Street, Selbyville.

Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn during the least sunny time of the day, fix toilet and faucet leaks, and take shorter showers. A 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turning the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving can save 3 to 5 gallons of water per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure future generations use water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Special monitoring requirements violations

All contaminants were in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act with the exception of TTHM's and HAA5's. Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of cancer. As you can see, we had two violations in 2008 which occurred in February and were resolved by March. Since TTHM's and HAA5's were noted to be higher in February and March, the town implemented an extensive quarterly hydrant flushing program in the detected areas that has been successful in eliminating these high residuals.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the 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.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u> | <u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u> | <u>Your</u> <u>Water</u> | <u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u> | | <u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.) | | | | | | | | |
| Bromochloroacetic Acid | | | 3 ppb | | | | NO | |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 68.1 | 7.3 | 68.1 | 2008 | Yes | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| METHYL-T-BUTYL ETHER (MTBE) | 0 | 10 | 2.37 ppb | | | | NO | Fuel oxygenate added to fuel to increase its oxygen |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 126.9 | 31 | 126.9 | 2008 | Yes | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 0.03 | NA | | 2008 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.97 | 0.40 | 0.97 | 2008 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG</u> | <u>AL</u> | <u>Your</u> <u>Water</u> | <u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u> | <u># Samples</u> <u>Exceeding AL</u> | <u>Exceeds</u> <u>AL</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.135 | 2008 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible, the State requires us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants, only the ones listed below were found in your drinking water.

| Contaminants | State MCL | Your Water | Violation | Explanation and Comment |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Iron [Fe] | 0.3 ppm | 0.06 ppm | No | |
| Ph | 8.5 ppm | 7.29 ppm | No | |
| Naphthalene | 0.5 ppb | 0.1 ppb | No | |
| Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] | 500 ppm | 224 ppm | No | |
| Hardness | NA | 6.3 ppm | No | |
| Chloride [Cl] | 250 ppm | 22.2 ppm | No | |
| Alkalinity [Alk] | NA | 131ppm | No | |
| Sodium [Na] | NA | 86 ppm | No | |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Term | Definition |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|---|---|
| Term | Definition |
| MCLG | MCLG: 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. |
| MCL | MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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. |
| MRDL | MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

Spanish (Español)

Este reporte esta' disponible en espanol y puede ser obtenido bajo pedido llamando o vistando al Town Hall de Selbyville, 68 W. calle Church, 302-436-8314.

For more information please contact:

Ronald Foskey-Water Plant Manager
PO Box 106
Selbyville, DE 19975
1-302-436-8314
1-302-436-8018

A copy of this report is also available online at www.townofselbyville.com