Message from the EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, some elderly and some 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 by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Possible Contaminants In Source 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 land and into waterways, it dissolves natural minerals and picks up substances from animals or human activity.

To protect public health, water treatment plants reduce contaminants to safe levels established by regulations.

- Organic compounds, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, runoff, and septic systems.
- Inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or the result of storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Microbes, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from septic systems, livestock, pets and wildlife.
- Radioactive compounds can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture, runoff, and residential uses.

How to Interpret Our Data

USEPA 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 a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

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 contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Regulatory Testing Abbreviations

ppm Parts per million (mg/L)

ppb Parts per billion (ug/L)

ppt Parts per trillion (ng/L)

LRAA Locational Running Annual Average

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NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units