

# OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY

## TOLLGATE WATER COMPANY

### 2016

Federal and state agencies require each community water system to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to each customer. This is Tollgate Water Company's (TWC) 2016 report.

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

TGW's water is derived from two wells, which pump from a ground water aquifer. One well is located at the east end of Wagon Wheel in section 5. The other is located just north of the fire substation.

#### **Source water assessment and its availability**

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require all states to conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies water to our wells, (2) identification of the potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determination of the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those pollution sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information needed to develop a strategy to protect the drinking water resource. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for Tollgate's wells. A copy of the report is on file at the water system's office.

#### **Why are there contaminants in 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)

#### **Is my water safe?**

Last year, 2016, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state drinking water health standards. Tollgate Water Company is proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contamination level or any other water quality standard. Not all contaminants are tested annually. For those, which are not tested annually, the most recent sampling results occurring in the last five years must be reported, if the contaminant was present.

To help you understand terms and abbreviations found in **Table One** the following definitions are provided:

**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..

**Maximum Contamination Level** – the “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contamination Level Goal** – the “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l)** – a measure of radioactivity.

| <b>Table One</b>                            |                             |                           |                       |             |            |  |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|--|
| <b>CONTAMINANT</b>                          | <b>VIOLATION<br/>YES NO</b> | <b>LEVEL<br/>DETECTED</b> | <b>UNIT<br/>MENTS</b> | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>MCL</b> | <b>LIKELY SOURCE OF<br/>CONTAMINATION</b>                              |
| Lead<br>8/13/15                             | No                          | 0.002                     | PPM                   | 0           | 0.0155     | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.. |
| Copper<br>8/13/15                           | No                          | 0.1450                    | PPM                   | 1.3         | 1.35       | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Gross Alpha<br>11/20/12<br>Well #1          | No                          | 2.400                     | pCi/l                 | 0           | 15         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| <b>Gross Alpha<br/>11/20/12<br/>Well #2</b> | <b>No</b>                   | <b>2.800</b>              | <b>pCi/l</b>          | <b>0</b>    | <b>15</b>  | <b>Erosion of natural deposits.</b>                                    |
| <b>Radium<br/>11/20/12<br/>Well #1</b>      | <b>No</b>                   | <b>2.200</b>              | <b>pCi/l</b>          | <b>0</b>    | <b>5</b>   | <b>Erosion of natural deposits</b>                                     |
| <b>Radium<br/>11/20/12<br/>Well #2</b>      | <b>No</b>                   | <b>2.800</b>              | <b>pCi/l</b>          | <b>0</b>    | <b>5</b>   | <b>Erosion of natural deposits.</b>                                    |

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two 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.

#### **Health effects**

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level (Action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water company must follow. Action level for lead and copper are the same as their respective MCLs) could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Some people who consume water containing alpha emitters or radium in excess of the MCLs over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**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).

**How can I get involved?**

Your continued cooperation in such programs as the cross connection program helps insure the quality of our water. If you have questions about the water system or the quality of your water, call Betty Fadeley at 541-549-7962 or Lynn Lounsbury at 541-419-9593, or attend water board meetings, which are held the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October in the Tollgate Recreation Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Malcolm Murphy  
Board Chair

Lynn Lounsbury  
Distribution Manager