

# Bremen Water Department 2015

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. 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?

Three ground water wells.

## Source water assessment and its availability

A Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared for our water system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a high (detection) susceptibility risk. More information of this assessment can be obtained by contacting Alex Mikel at (574)546-4324. You may also obtain additional information by contacting IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (800)451-6027.

## 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 any questions about the contents of this report, or want to know more about the water treatment process, please feel free to contact Mr. Alex Mikel at (574)546-4324. You are also invited to join us at our Town Council Meetings, which are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at the Town Hall. We encourage you to participate and give us your feed back.

## Additional Information for Lead

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. Bremen Water Department 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chloramine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (mg/L)	4	4	1.81	1.13	2.2	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	3	NA		2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.1	NA		2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	6.25	1	8.3	2015	No	

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
								Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.86	.4	1.35	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1	NA		2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	NA		2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>								
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	.1	NA		2015	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	.1	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Alachlor (ppb)	0	2	.1	.1	.1	2015	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	.1	.1	.1	2015	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	0	200	20	NA		2015	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	.9	NA		2015	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	.1	NA		2015	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	1	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	400	400	.6	NA		2015	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	.6	NA		2015	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	0	200	10	NA		2015	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	.1	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat (ppb)	20	20	.4	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endothall (ppb)	100	100	9	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	.01	NA		2015	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Ethylene dibromide (ppt)	0	50	10	NA		2015	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	700	6	NA		2015	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	40	NA		2015	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	0	200	20	NA		2015	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	.1	NA		2015	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	.1	NA		2015	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	200	200	20	NA		2015	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	.1	NA		2015	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	1	NA		2015	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	0	500	500	NA		2015	No	Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	.04	NA		2015	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	.1	NA		2015	No	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	.07	NA		2015	No	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	1	NA		2015	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle

Contaminants	MCLG	AA	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.1	2015	22	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.011	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
mg/L	mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
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

**Important Drinking Water Definitions**

**For more information please contact:**

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