City of Long Beach

PWS ID# 0240005

2012 Drinking Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

Last year, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard during the past year.

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?

Your drinking water comes from 10 deep water wells scattered throughout the City. Three of these draw water from the Graham Ferry Formation, and the remainder from the Pascagoula Formation.

Source water assessment and its availability

A Source Water Assessment has been prepared for the City by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Copies of this report are available upon request at the Long Beach Water Department Billing Office. Of the City's 10 wells, 9 wells ranked "moderate" in the susceptibility assessment and 1 well ranked "lower" in susceptibility.

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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides 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. 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?

The Long Beach Board of Aldermen has a regularly scheduled meeting on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Long Beach City Hall at 201 Jeff Davis Ave., starting at 5:00 PM. All customers of the Long Beach water system are invited to attend.

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. Long Beach 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 Water Drinking Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.50	0.30	0.70	2012	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes - TTHMs (ppb)	NA	80	<4	NA		2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids-HAA5s (ppb)	NA	60	<6	NA		2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month) [1]	0	1	1	NA		9/2012	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants								
Chromium (ppb)	0.1	100	.002	ND	.002	2011	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.065	.002	.065	2011	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.224	.131	.224	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Cyanide [as free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	.02	NA		2011	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	AL=15	6	NA		2009	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	.2	NA		2009	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (PCI/L)	15		0.8	NA		2012	No	

*** April 1, 2013 MESSAGE FROM MSDH CONCERNING RADIOLOGICAL SAMPLING ***

In accordance with the Radionuclides Rule, all community public water supplies were required to sample quarterly for radionuclides beginning January 2007 – December 2007. Your public water supply completed sampling by the scheduled deadline; however, during an audit of the Mississippi State Department of Health Radiological Health Laboratory, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suspended analyses and reporting of radiological compliance samples and results until further notice. Although this was not the result of inaction by the public water supply, MSDH was required to issue a violation. This is to notify you that your water system has completed the monitoring requirements and is now in compliance with the Radionuclides Rule. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Walters, Director of Compliance & enforcement, Bureau of Public Water Supply, at (601)576-7518.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
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.

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.
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.

For more information please contact:

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