2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR Decorah

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our groundwater is drawn from the alluvial aquifer and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter).
Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	9	6/1/2008 – 9/30/2010	ND - 14	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4.0	MRDL=4.0	0.5	RAA 2011	0.4-0.6	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.371	6/1/2008 – 9/30/2010	0.0175-0.695	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	17	7/12/2010	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	7.21	7/12/2010	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	#1-7: 13.2 #8:2.4	2/3/09 4/8/09	6.1-13.2 NA	No No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	6.4	2011	3.8-6.4	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0649	4/8/2009	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.14	7/2011	0.74-1.14	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- 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.
- 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.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- IDSE – Initial Distribution System Evaluation
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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 contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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/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 (800-426-4791).

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. Decorah Public Water 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.

CONTAMINANT VIOLATIONS

No Contaminant Violations.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

No Other Violations

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The Decorah water supply obtains its water from the alluvial and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter) aquifer. These aquifers were determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The wells will be most susceptible to activities such as dry cleaners, gas stations, industrial sites, and municipal wastewater dischargers. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from Todd Ihde at Decorah Water Department at 800 W. Water St. or by phone at 382-5171.

OTHER INFORMATION

Our water utility is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water tower, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please contact us at Decorah Water Dept. 382-5171 or the local police/sheriff department by dialing 911. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system. The City of Decorah also tested water for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR). We had no detection from these samples.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information, please contact Todd Ihde, Decorah Water Superintendent at 382-5171 during the following hours: 7-4 Monday – Friday.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Utility Comm meetings and then approved at the City Council meetings. These meeting are posted 24 hours in advance and are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at City Hall and are open to the public These meetings are also submitted to media. Citizens may also contact City Hall or the Decorah Water Dept. for more information regarding such meetings.

YOU MAY PICK UP COPIES OF THIS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

DECORAH CITY HALL	400 CLAIRBORNE DR	563-382-3651
DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY	202 WINNEBAGO ST.	563-382-3717
DECORAH WATER DEPT.	800 WATER ST.	563-382-5171

Please Note: This report will not be mailed to individual customers.