

# DECORAH WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2008

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 and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter) aquifer(s). 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	10	07/07	0 - 15	no	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4.0	MRDL=4.0	0.55	RAA	0.1 - 2.2	no	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	1.3	2/3/03		no	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.895	07/07	0.007 - 1.96	no	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.12	2/3/03	0.07 - 0.12 no	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.31	1/2/07 - 12/30/07	0.73 - 1.31	no	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10	10	5.2	2007	2.7 - 5.2	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	9.69	8/16/07		no	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	18.6	1/17/06	8.1 - 18.6	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	10.7	8/8/07		no	By-products of drinking water disinfection

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
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- 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>.

## **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. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

The City of Decorah's water supply obtains its water from the alluvial and Middle Ordovician (Galena, Decorah, St. Peter) aquifer. These aquifer's 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 David M. Pahlas of the Decorah Water Dept. At 800 W. Water St. or by phoning 1-356-382-5171.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Our water utility is making every effort to protect our 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 the Decorah Water Dept. at 1-563-382-5171 or by phoning the local Police Department at 911.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For questions regarding this information, please contact David M. Pahlas, Decorah Water Superintendent at 563-382-5171 during the following hours: 7-5 Monday thru Friday.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Utility Committee meetings and then approved at the City Council Meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall and are open to the public. The City Council and Utility Committee meetings are posted at the City Hall and are open to the public. The City Council and Utility Committee meetings are posted at the City Hall 24 hours in advance of the meetings, and submitted to the media. Citizens may also contact City Hall or the Decorah Water Dept. for information on such meetings.

**YOU MAY ALSO PICK UP A COPY OF THIS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

<b>DECORAH CITY HALL</b>	<b>400 CLAIBORNE DR</b>	<b>563-382-3651</b>
<b>DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>	<b>202 WINNEBAGO ST</b>	<b>563-283-3717</b>
<b>DECORAH WATER DEPT.</b>	<b>800 W. WATER ST.</b>	<b>563-382-5171</b>

**WE WON'T BE MAILING THIS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD'S OR TO BUSINESS'S.**