

# **2011 CITY OF HANCOCK WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

## Regulation Background:

Following new federal regulations, the State of Michigan in 1998 enacted a requirement that public water suppliers must now issue annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) on water systems. Therefore, this report is issued to provide City of Hancock Water Customers with information on drinking water.

## Summary of City Water System:

The City purchases its water from the Adams Township Water Authority. All of the City's water comes from three 200 feet deep wells from an aquifer located just South of Painesdale. The water is pumped along a seven mile water main to the City distribution system.

The City uses about 550,000 gallons of water per day. The City has about 1,835 customers, of which 1400 are single-family units. The City has about 30 miles of water distribution mains, about 19 miles of service laterals, and over 260 hydrants in its water system. The City currently charges \$6.85/1000 gallons of metered water, plus a bond debt charge based on meter size.

Adams Township, in cooperation with the City is working on a formal Wellhead Protection Plan. The land area of the aquifer source is forest land.

Chlorine is added to the Water System to maintain a chlorine residual as a precaution for possible entry of harmful bacteria into the distribution system.

Zinc Orthophosphate is added to control corrosion of household plumbing and reduce the lead content of the water.

## Introduction:

Individual tests were conducted on the City's water for 80 Federally and State regulated contaminants. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. In addition, our water was tested for several non-regulated items that affected taste, odor, or appearance. The City also takes five bacteria samples a month from the distribution system as part of our regular monitoring program.

## City Water Quality Results:

The City water tests were conducted by the State Water Analysis Laboratory. Two regulated contaminants, arsenic and mercury were detected, but both were below maximum contaminant levels.

## General Water Educational Information (as required by the EPA):

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or EPA'S Web Site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html).

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include:

- \*Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 and residential uses.

- \*Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.

- \*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.

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).

#### 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. The City of Hancock 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>.

Terms and Abbreviations:

Maximum level: (MCL) the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as possible using best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminants Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements.

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter.

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

The table below lists the drinking water contaminants detected in the City's drinking water:

Contaminants:

Samples Exceeding

<u>Arsenic:</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>City Water</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>
	10ppb	0ppb	5ppb	0	03-17-09	no

Typical source of contaminants: Erosion of natural deposits.

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 effect such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

<u>Mercury:</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>City Water</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>
	2ppb	2ppb	.10ppb	0	3-17-2009	no

Typical source of contaminants: Erosion of natural deposits.

For More Information:

Copies of all test results are available at City Hall. For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at (906-482-1121). The City of Hancock is committed to providing the best quality water and water information to our valued customers.

CITY OF HANCOCK

William Laitila, Mayor

Glenn Anderson, City Manager