

CITY OF NILES

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2006

The City of Niles has prepared the following report on the water quality from Meander Reservoir. This report is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. For technical water quality information, contact the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) at 330-652-3614. For information regarding distribution, service, pressure, lead & copper sampling results or discolored water, contact Randy Fabrizio at 330-544-9010.

How is the water supplied to customers?

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District treats approximately 30 million gallons per day of raw water from Meander Creek Reservoir and pumps it to Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald. These communities distribute the water to residents and surrounding areas. Treatment includes chemical addition for softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste & odor control, mixing, settling, filtration, and pumping. Niles distributes approximately 6 million gallons per day through 100 miles of pipeline to residents and sells water to Girard, Lordstown, Mineral Ridge, and portions of Howland and Weathersfield Township.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments regarding water are encouraged at regular council meetings scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM in the second floor of the safety complex at 15 E. State St..

Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immune-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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

A word or two about lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable than the general public to lead in drinking water. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The City of Niles tests 30 sites on a regular basis. The last testing period was 2005. At that time, the lead concentration at the 90th percentile was below the 15 microgram per liter action level prescribed by the USEPA. At the 90th percentile the sample was found to contain 2.4 micrograms per liter, which is equivalent to 2.4 pennies in a billion pennies, or 10 million dollars.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants:** such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides & Herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants:** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes 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 human activity.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Definition of terms

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l): Both terms are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. Both terms correspond to one second in a little over 115 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l): Both terms are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. Both terms correspond to one second in 31.7 years.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The "<" Symbol: A symbol which means less than. A sampling result of <5 means the lowest level that could be detected is 5 and the contaminant in the sample is less than 5.

N/A: not applicable, does not apply.

TT: Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable by the average person.

Table of Detected Contaminants for 2005

Contamination (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Sources
<i>Bacteriological</i>							
*Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.29	.03-.29	NO	2005	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% sampling Meeting standard)	N/A	TT	100%	N/A	NO	2005	Soil runoff
<i>Inorganic</i>							
**Lead (ppb)	0.0	15	2.4	< 2.0-2.4	NO	2005	Household plumbing corrosion
**Copper (ppb)	0.0	1,300	52	< 10-52	NO	2005	Household plumbing corrosion & leaching from wood preservatives
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	.393	< .10-.393	NO	2005	Runoff from fertilizer & leachate from septic tanks
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.15	.88-1.15	NO	2005	Additive for strong teeth
Barium (ppb)	2	2	14.8	N/A	NO	2005	Mineral deposits, concrete, paint
<i>Organic</i>							
TTHM's (ppb) Total Trihalomethanes	N/A	80	50 avg	46-54	NO	2005	Water purification by-product
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	N/A	60	30 avg	19-50	NO	2005	Water purification by-product
Chloroform (ppb)	N/A	N/A	67.0	N/A	NO	2005	Water purification by-product
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	N/A	N/A	2.2	N/A	NO	2005	Herbicide, weed killer
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	N/A	N/A	1.95	1-1.95	NO	2005	From something that has lived
Atrazine (ppb)	N/A	N/A	.329	NA	NO	2005	Herbicide, weed killer

* Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is .3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 5 NTU at any time.

** The 15 and 1,300 ug/l listed under the heading of maximum contaminant level (MCL) for lead and copper respectively, are action levels. Action levels are the thresholds of sampling at the 90th percentile.

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 SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE AT 1-800-426-4791.

Your Water Supply

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District public water system uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. For the purpose of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's drinking water source protection area is susceptible to runoff from row crop agriculture and animal feedlot operations, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, road/rail crossings, and new housing and commercial development that could raise runoff from roads and parking lots.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District water system and the City of Niles treat the water to meet drinking water supply quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed. More detailed information is provided in the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling Edward McCormick at 330-799-6315.