CITY OF NILES
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2019
Based on 2018 Data

This report is available on the Niles website: www.thecityofniles.com

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 Meander Water (MVSD) at 330-652-3614. For information regarding distribution service, pressure, lead & copper or discolored water, call 330-544-9010. The City of Niles has a current unconditioned license to operate a public water system under **ID 7802403**.

How is water supplied to customers?

Meander Water treats approximately 24 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 Townships.

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 Niles Municipal Court on the second floor of the safety complex at 15 E. State St..

Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. Immune-compromised persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons with 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

The City of Niles tests 30 sites on a regular basis. The last testing period was 2014. At that time, the lead concentration at the 90^{th} percentile was below the 15 microgram per liter action level prescribed by the USEPA. At the 90^{th} percentile the sample was found to contain 3 micrograms per liter, which is equivalent to 3 pennies in a billion pennies, or 10 million dollars.

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. Meander Water and the City of Niles are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting 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 at http:// www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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 a drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for microbial contaminant control.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): 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.

NA: 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 2018

Contamination (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Sources
Bacteriological							
*Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.07	.05- 0.17	NO	2018	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% sampling Meeting standard)			100%		NO	2018	Soil runoff
Inorganic							
**Lead (ppb)	0.0	AL=15	<5	< 5	NO	2017	Household plumbing corrosion
**Copper (ppb)	0.0	AL= 1,300	128	< 10-128	NO	2017	Household plumbing corrosion & leaching from wood preservatives
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	0.350	0.10- 0.704	NO	2018	Runoff from fertilizer & leachate from septic tanks
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.87	0.81-1.15	NO	2018	Additive for strong teeth
Barium (ppb)	2	2	10	10	NO	2018	Mineral deposits, concrete, paint
Organic							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	71 avg	31.2-77.9	NO	2018	Water purification by-product
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	NA	60	32 avg	17.8-55.4	NO	2018	Water purification by-product
Total Chlorine			1.85	1.75-2.13	NO	2018	Residual Chlorine
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	1.76	1.40-2.00	NO	2018	From something that has lived

* 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.

*** Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acid (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the level of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both THMs and HAAs.

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

Meander Water Public Water System uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. For the purpose of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface water is susceptible to contamination. By nature, surface water is accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and disease-causing organisms which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

Meander Water'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 (330) 652-3614. The MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is available at the **meanderwater.org** website by clicking on the link for **Administration Public Records**

Tap and bottled drinking water sources 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 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 providing the same protection for public health.

The water department responded to and repaired many water breaks/leaks in 2017. Permanent and seasonal flusher were used to reduce/eliminate the color issues. Three areas were determined to be looped in 2017 to eliminate the dead ends. Two have been completed. The flushers have been moved to other locations that have experienced the same issue.

The summer of 2017 saw lead and copper testing taking place. The City of Niles is on A Triennial cycle and was <u>not</u> required to run Lead and Copper tests this year. The next set of tests will be in 2020