

# CITY OF PONTIAC

## 2008 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Pontiac is pleased to inform you that in 2008, as in past years, we have surpassed the water quality standards required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The 2008 Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of our water, lists our test results, and contains important information about water and health. This report is intended to provide consumer understanding of drinking water and to heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources.

We hope this report addresses any drinking water quality concerns you might have. Additional information can be found on the Detroit Water & Sewer Department web site [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org), and on the EPA's web site, *Water on Tap: A Consumer's Guide to the Nation's Drinking Water* at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### ❖ Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Pontiac's source water comes from the lower Lake Huron watershed, Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant in Port Huron. The watershed includes numerous short, seasonal streams which drain to Lake Huron. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The Lake Huron source water intake is categorized as having moderately low susceptibility to potential contaminant sources. The Lake Huron water treatment plant has historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards. If you would like to know more about this report please visit the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department's website at [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org) or contact the City of Pontiac Water & Sewer Maintenance Division 248-758-3790.

### ❖ Substances That May Be Found in Source Water

The following is intended to be educational and descriptive of all water sources throughout the world. Not all of the substances below are necessarily found in your source water. The sources for 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 human activity.

Contaminants that **may** be present in source water 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 storm water runoff, industrial or residential wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ❖ Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- ❖ Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial Processes, and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- ❖ Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ❖ Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking Water?

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 (800-426-4791). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### ❖ How Do We Know the Water Is Safe to Drink?

The City of Detroit operates its treatment facilities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The treatment process begins with adding chlorine to disinfect the source water, killing harmful micro-organisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called alum is mixed with the water in a large tank to remove fine particles by making them clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is then added to protect our teeth from cavities and decay. The water then flows through fine sand filters called filter beds. These filters remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, small amounts of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added to the treated water just before it leaves the treatment plant. Phosphoric acid helps control lead that may dissolve in water from your household plumbing system. Chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through water mains to reach your home. In addition to a carefully controlled and monitored treatment process, the water is tested for a variety of substances before and during the various stages of treatment and throughout the distribution system. Hundreds of samples are tested each week in certified laboratories by a highly qualified and trained staff. Water produced by the City of Detroit also ranks among the top 10 in the country for quality and value.

### ❖ Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### ❖ Opportunities for Public Participation

The City of Pontiac Water & Sewer Maintenance Division (phone # 248-758-3790) welcomes your questions and concerns. Questions and comments are always welcome at Pontiac City Council meetings held every other Thursday at 7:00 PM. Please call the office of the City Clerk (248-758-3200) for the dates of City Council meetings.

Also, the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Detroit meets the third Wednesday of each month. There are also public hearings and meetings open to the public. To confirm dates and times, or for information on other happenings in the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, call (313) 964-9570.

## Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2008 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
Fluoride	9/9/2008	ppm	4	4	1.15	n/a	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	9/9/2008	ppm	10	10	0.33	n/a	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	6/9/2008	ppm	2	2	0.01	n/a	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfectant By-Products – Monitoring in Distribution System (level detected is the highest running annual average based on quarterly averages)</b>								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Feb-Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	80	16.2	6.6 – 31.9	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Feb-Nov 2008	ppb	n/a	60	8.5	4.3 – 12.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant (chlorine) Residual (ppm)	Jan-Dec 2008	ppm	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	0.72	0.54 - 0.86	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>2008 Turbidity – Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap</b>								
<u>Highest Single Measurement Cannot exceed 1 NTU</u>			<u>Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)</u>			<u>Violation Yes/No</u>	<u>Major Sources in Drinking Water</u>	
0.11 NTU			100%			No	Soil Runoff	
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.								
<b>2008 Microbiological Contaminants – Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System</b>								
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Number Detected		Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria > 5% of monthly samples	in one month 2 (Jan 2008)		YES**	Naturally present in the environment.		
E.coli or fecal coliform bacteria	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E.coli positive.	Entire year 0		NO	Human waste and animal fecal waste.		
Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Running Annual Average	Monthly Ratio Range	Violation: Yes/No		Typical Source of Contaminant		
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.					Erosion of natural deposits		

\*\*In January 2008 we had sampling that tested positive for coliform bacteria. No E-coli was detected, and all subsequent samples have tested NOT DETECTED for coliform bacteria.

### 2008 Special Monitoring

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.38	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

#### Terms & Abbreviations

MCLG	maximum contaminant level goal, the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk.
MCL	maximum contaminant level, 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 in treatment technology.
MRDLG	maximum residual disinfectant level goal, the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MRDL	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
ppb	parts per billion, the ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	parts per million, the ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Measures the cloudiness of water.
TT	Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level, the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes, total trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
pCi/l	picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity
n/a	not applicable

City of Pontiac Residential Lead and Copper Testing								
Contaminant	Test Date	Units	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Number of Samples Over AL	Violation Yes/No	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	2008	ppb	0	15	0 ppb	none	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2008	ppm	1.3	1.3	65.7 ppm	none	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.								

Pontiac's Residential Lead and Copper Testing showed no samples above the Action Level (AL) for either lead or copper. Therefore, Pontiac was not required to undertake any additional measures to reduce lead and/or copper levels. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values are statistical numbers based on the analysis of thirteen lead and copper samples. These values indicate that Pontiac is well below the Action Levels (AL) for both lead and copper.

### ❖ Important Health Information

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 Pontiac is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 \(800-426-4791\)](tel:8004264791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Health Effects: Infants and children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Those who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their mental or physical development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and have learning disabilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Additional information is available from the [Safe Drinking Water Hotline \(800-426-4791\)](tel:8004264791).

Things that you can do can help minimize exposure:

- Run your water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes, or until it feels colder, anytime your water has not been used for more than six hours.
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula.
- Use faucets and plumbing materials that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

### WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



- ❖ Turn off the water tap while you are brushing your teeth, turn it back on to rinse.
- ❖ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day! Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ❖ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl, if the bowl water becomes colored, your toilet is leaking. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ❖ Automatic Dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. Get the most for your money, and load it to capacity.
- ❖ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all water taps and appliances that use water. Check the water meter, and check again in 15 minutes, if the meter has moved, you have a leak.

### DO THE MATH

1 unit of water is equal to 748 gallons (imagine all the milk jugs stacked up to get to 748 gallons)  
 1 unit is also equal to 100 cubic feet  
 1 gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds

For more information contact: **Water & Sewer Maintenance Division**  
**City of Pontiac**  
**Attn: Gregory S McCaffery**  
**522 S. Opdyke**  
**Pontiac, MI 48341**

**Phone: 248-758-3790**  
**Fax: 248-857-5605**

**Espanol (Spanish): Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber.**  
**Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

City of Pontiac  
Water & Sewer Maintenance  
522 S. Opdyke Road  
Pontiac, MI 48341

Pre-Sort  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pontiac, MI  
Permit No 140

## POSTAL PATRON

**PLEASE OPEN AND READ – IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### ***Important Information About Your Drinking Water Monitoring & Reporting Requirements Not Met for Pontiac Public Water System***

Our water system is required to conduct a system evaluation to characterize disinfection by-products (DBP's) in our distribution system and identify the best places to monitor. Not all of the sampling was completed prior to September 2008 for this evaluation; the sampling is still ongoing and should be completed by October 2009. Although this sampling scheduling was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008, our system had not yet completed the collection of the required number of DBP samples for trihalomethanes (TTHM's) and haloacetic acids (HAA5's) in our drinking water distribution system.

#### **❖ What should I have done?**

There was nothing you needed to do. The missed samples were for the purpose of a system evaluation, and are not compliance samples. You did not need to boil your water or take other corrective action. If a situation were to arise where the water is no longer safe to drink, you would be notified within 24 hours.

#### **❖ What was done?**

TTHM's and HAA5's are a group of chemicals that are formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. Through this sampling process, we are working to minimize the formation of TTHM's and HAA5's while ensuring an adequate level of disinfection to protect customers from exposure to bacteria. We have revised our monitoring plan and will complete taking these samples by October 2009.

***For more information, please contact the City of Pontiac Water & Sewer Maintenance Division at 248-758-3790, Or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at 586-753-3755.***

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. "**