

# 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT



## **To Our Water Customers,**

The report you are about to read contains information concerning the Town of St. John water pumping and distribution systems (Monix Water Treatment Plant; Facility #IN5245043 and Gates of St. John Water Treatment Plant; Facility #IN5245043-02 for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. The intent of this report is to briefly summarize the quality of the water we provide to you, our water customers.

## **Where Your Water Comes From**

St. John Municipal Water Utility is groundwater that is supplied to us by four wells that are drilled into an underground aquifer. An aquifer, quite simply, is an underground geological formation that contains water. Raw water is withdrawn from four wells and is mixed together as it travels into the water treatment plant. At the treatment plant the raw water travels through a series of iron removal filters. Chlorine is injected to assure the water's purity and then the finished water is pumped into your home or business. During 2016, the St. John Water Treatment Plants pumped in excess of 628,240,000 gallons of drinking water.

## **What Your Water Contains**

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 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 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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 materials, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## **Health Notes Concerning Drinking Water**

St. John's water testing did not detect a discernable presence of lead however, it is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than those found in other homes in the community. **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 Town of St. John Water District 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 cooling. 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>.**

## **TABLE OF TESTING RESULTS**

The following table represents the findings of tests that are performed of our Town water supply. The tests listed below may not be required to be performed each year. Therefore, the date of the last required sample may be prior to the year 2016. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

## Definitions of Abbreviations

<b>ALG</b>	Action Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. (referenced to Lead and Copper).
<b>AL</b>	Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. (referenced to Lead and Copper).
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -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.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - 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.
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal – The level of 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.
<b>Mrem/yr</b>	Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
<b>pCi/L</b>	Picocuries per liter.
<b>ppb</b>	Micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
<b>ppm</b>	Milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Levels Detected</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>Major Sources</b>
Barium – 2014	0.024 ppm	0.0064 -.024	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/photon emitters – 05/09/2011	4.5 mrem/yr	4.5 – 4.5	0	4	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Chlorine – 2016	1 ppm	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chromium – 08/01/2011	16 ppb	13 - 16	100	100	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - 2014	0.707 ppm	---	1.3	AL-1.3	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate – 09/24/2012	1.5 ppb	0 – 1.5	0	0.006	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
Fluoride – 09/24/2015	0.72 ppm	0.72 – 0.72	4.0	4.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Gross Alpha excluding Radon and Uranium 08/01/2011	1 pCi/L	0 – 1.9	15 pCi/L	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead – 2014	5 ppb	----	0	AL-15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate – 03/18/2016	NON-DETECT	10 or less	10 ppm	10 ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium - 08/05/2014	5.2 ppb	0 – 5.2	50	50	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) - 2016	< 2.0 ppb	2.0 – 2.0	No goal for the total	60	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) – 2016	4 ppb	4.2 – 4.2	No goal for the total	80	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

The Town of St. John experienced one TC (Total Coliform) violation in 2016. That location was resampled, plus samples were taken upstream and downstream. All samples retested came back absent.

"Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily cause for health concerns. For more information on taste, order, or color of drinking water, please contact the Public Works office at 219-365-4655 option 6. 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791."

### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Public Works Department at 365-4655 option 6 or **visit the Town's website at [www.stjohnin.com](http://www.stjohnin.com) to find out dates, times and locations for your Town Council and Water Board meetings.** Also, for your convenience there is a copy of the Town's drinking water system's Wellhead Protection Plan at the Clerk-Treasurers office located in the Municipal Building and the Public Works Department located in the Public Works Facility. **The Town Council and Water Board members welcome any public involvement or input.**

### ABOUT THE COVER

The latest addition to the Public Works fleet, a 2017 Ford T250 Water Department customer service van. Equipped with all the necessities to install, maintain and monitor the town's water meters. Also shown is the St. John Bulk Water Station where the public can purchase 1,000 gallons of potable water for \$5.00.

Educate your family about the importance of conserving water and keeping our environment clean. Check out the American Water Works Association Web site at [www.awwa.com](http://www.awwa.com).



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