

**City of Lewiston
2015 Drinking Water Report**

The City of Lewiston is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of the report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water sources.

Source of Water

The city of Lewiston provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: two wells, ranging from 405-1154 feet deep, which draw water from the Jordan-St. Larence and Mt. Simon aquifers.

The Minnesota Department of Health as determined that the source(s) used to supply your water is not particularly susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 800-818-2257 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call 507-523-2257 if you have questions about the City of Lewiston drinking water or would like information about the opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water.

Results of Monitoring

An exceedance of a federal standard for combined radium is still in effect. In the following chart, some other contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below the legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table, along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical source of contaminant
			Range (2015)	Average/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	n/a	4.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	n/a	6.2†	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.44-1.1	1.06	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	5.8-6.4	6.4	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

† During the year, we had an ongoing violation for Combined Radium. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing cancer. Our system has signed a compliance agreement with the MDH, and we are studying alternatives available for corrective action.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. High nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods

of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.36-1.12	.99	Water additive used to control microbes

**** Highest and lowest monthly averages

***** Highest quarterly average

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (06/25/2014)	1.3	1.3	.17	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (06/25/2014)	0	15	2.8	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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. City of Lewiston 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Registration

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolved 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 water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides or 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 organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by the public water systems. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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 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 at 800-426-4791.