

City of Mount Vernon

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

For 2007

Introduction

The City of Mount Vernon has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

Source Water Information.

The Mount Vernon Water Treatment Plant receives its drinking water from wells located in the Mount Vernon well field, part of which is located in Riverside Park. An additional well is located on the west side of the Kokosing River behind the sludge lagoons. The source of this ground water is the buried valley aquifer coincident with part of the Kokosing River.

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the City of Mount Vernon has a high susceptibility to contamination due to the sensitive nature of the aquifer in which the wells are located and the existing potential contaminant sources identified. This does not mean that the well field will be contaminated; only that conditions are such that ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. More information is available by contacting Judy Scott at 393-9502 or the Ohio EPA at 614-644-2752.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

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: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, 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; (E) 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, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

City of Mount Vernon

Division of Water & Wastewater

3 North Gay Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Phone: 740-393-9504 Fax: 740-397-3707



Mount Vernon

www.mountvernonohio.org

Effective July 2008 billing quarter, the City of Mount Vernon water consumers will experience a 5% increase on water billing. The City of Mount Vernon is presently reviewing a rate study of our water system and consumers should anticipate an additional rate increase. The minimum bill will increase from \$74.95 to \$77.23.

It is always important for consumers to practice good conservation of our water. Conserve water inside your home by keeping faulty faucets and leaking commodes repaired promptly. Use low-flow showerheads and modernize bathroom commodes with low volume units whenever possible.

Toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in your home. Each flush uses 4-6 gallons of water. Typical estimated percentages of water usage for a family of four are: Flushing – 40%, Bath/Shower – 32%, Laundry – 14%, Bathroom sink – 3%, Cooking/Drinking – 5%, and Dishwashing – 6%.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

As a way to meet the Ohio EPA requirement for residential backflow, the City of Mount Vernon requires that all persons with swimming pools have *hose bibb vacuum breakers* on their outdoor spigots. We also ask that *all residents install* this same small device *especially if they water their yards using chemicals (lawn treatment for killing weeds) or if they frequently use their outdoor spigots*. This small device, which is available at local hardware stores, will insure that no hazardous water siphons back into your home drinking water.

Other concerns we have are chemicals, which are directly connected to our City water lines. These include photographic equipment, eductors of any kind (i.e. soap), direct connection to garbage disposals or any other substance you would not want in your drinking water. Please contact us *immediately* if any of these situations apply to your household.

MESSAGE ON BOIL ADVISORIES

Just a reminder, each time the City's water main is reduced to 20 lbs pressure or less, there could be a potential for contamination. For the protection of the customers we issue boil advisories. These are issued as door cards for smaller areas or news releases for larger areas. Advisories are also posted on www.mountvernonohio.org or at our 3 North Gay Street office location.

BILLING DUE DATES

Water and wastewater bills are due on the 15th of each billing month of the billing cycle. We would like to remind the public that this 15th due date is extended on occasion. When the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, bills are considered "on time" the first business day after. With mail payments, when checks are dated the 15th and the postmark indicates mailing by the 15th, your payment will be on time. We also have a night deposit located at the north side of our building. Any payments put into the night deposit on the 15th are considered on time the next business day. If at anytime bills are mailed out past the 1st day of the month due, we will give additional time to compensate for any delay.

We strive to provide our customers with clean and safe drinking water. Community efforts in water conservation and awareness will assist us in achieving our goals. Encourage your friends to promote water conservation. Be observant and report any significant water losses (broken pipes, open or leaking hydrants, errant sprinklers, other leaking fixtures) to the Water and Wastewater Department (740-393-9504)



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How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Mount Vernon City Council which meets at 7:30 on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except during the months of June, July and August when meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday only. If a State, federal or City holiday falls on the second or fourth Monday, the meeting will be held on the second or fourth Tuesday of the month. In addition, Water and Wastewater Commission meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am in City Council Chambers.

For more information on your drinking water contact Judy Scott at 393-9502 or 393-9508.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Contaminant level (MCL): 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.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.

Who needs 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 infection. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

About your drinking water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Mount Vernon Water Department conducted sampling for bacteria, nitrate, and disinfection byproducts during 2007. Samples were collected for a total of 15 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Mount Vernon's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Mount Vernon drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha (pCi/l)	0	15	4.22	NA	no	2006	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.016	NA	no	2006	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.36	NA	no	2006	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.033	<0.010-0.045	no	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of 30 samples was found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm							
Lead-action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	AL=15	<2	<2-2.7	no	2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Zero out of 30 samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb.							
Residual Disinfectants							
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDLG=800	MRDL=800	360	130-360	no	2007	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	MDRLG=0.8	MRDL=1	0.65	0.25-0.65	no	2007	By-product of drinking water disinfection