

# City of La Porte

## Drinking Water Quality Report 2016

April 1, 2016

[www.laportewaterworks.com](http://www.laportewaterworks.com)

PWSID # 5246017

### What is the purpose of this report?

The City of La Porte Water Department wants you to know that your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all 2015 Federal and State monitoring and reporting standards for quality and safety. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. En Espanol: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### Where does La Porte's water come from?

#### Water Source

The City of La Porte is supplied by groundwater pumped from a total of 10 wells in 4 well fields. All the wells are part of the Kankakee River Basin Aquifer.

#### Water Treatment

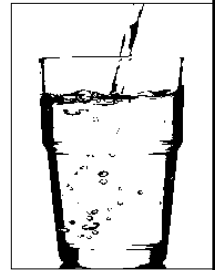
Water from the wells is pumped to one of two treatment and filtration plants. Before it reaches your tap, the water is aerated, filtered, and treated with low levels of chlorine and fluoride. A low level of ortho-phosphate is added to control corrosion of pipes. After treatment, water is pumped to the system on demand.

#### Distribution System

The water distribution system consists of over 145 miles of iron pipes forming a grid shaped network. There are more than 1500 valves, 1,000 fire hydrants, and 7,800 water service lines attached to the network. Water is stored in a 1.2 million gallon concrete reservoir and 3 – 500,000 gallon elevated storage tanks. Water treatment and distribution processes are controlled by a computer based system and a plant operator is on duty 24 hours per day.

#### Public Involvement Opportunities

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Todd Taylor or Henry Snyder at 219-326-9540. Or you can join us at Board of Public Works Meetings which are held on the first and third Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers in City Hall located at 801 Michigan Avenue in La Porte.



### Should I be concerned about drinking the City's 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. However, 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 risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

### What do you mean by contaminants?

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 water 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, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic (SOC) and volatile organics (VOC), 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 are naturally occurring or could be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Who is responsible for safe drinking water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of specific contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In turn, the City annually tests the water to ensure the regulations are being met. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for public health.

## Is the Water Tested for Lead?

With the cooperation of many La Porte residents, the La Porte Water Department has been collecting samples from homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The results of this testing show that lead levels are below action level. However, if your home is older and you believe it could have a lead service line or has piping that has lead soldered joints, you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes. Anytime your water has not been used for more than six hours, run your water for 30 seconds to two minutes. Always use cold tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. 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>.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | ALG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # sites over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|---|
| Copper (1)      | 2014         | 1.3 | AL=1.3            | 0.13            | 0               | ppm   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Lead (2)        | 2014         | 0   | AL=15             | 1.6             | 0               | ppb   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.   |

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** 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. **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Treated water coming from the La Porte Water System contains no lead.

## Regulated Detected Contaminant Table

| Inorganic Contaminants                  | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Major Sources  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Barium                                  | 2014            | 0.10                   | 0.071-0.10               | 2                     | 2   | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; natural deposits  |
| Fluoride                                | 2015            | 1.3                    | .59-1.3                  | 4                     | 4.0 | ppm   | N         | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants           | Date Tested     | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Major Sources  |
| THMs (Total Trihalomethanes)*           | 2015            | 18.8                   | 14.9-18.8                | No goal for the total | 80  | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| HAA5(Haloacetic acids)*                 | 2015            | 11.2                   | 8.2-11.2                 | No goal for the total | 60  | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| Radioactive Contaminants                | Date Tested     | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Major Sources  |
| Beta/photon emitters                    | 2009            | 4.1                    | 0.9-4.1                  | 0                     | 50  | pCi/L | N         | Decay of natural and man-made deposits   |
| Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium | 2009            | 1.5                    | 0-1.5                    | 0                     | 15  | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Uranium                                 | 2009            | 0.9                    | 0-0.9                    | 0                     | 30  | Ug/l  | N         | Erosion of natural deposits  |

### Water Quality Terminology

**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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 available treatment technology.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a 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 or 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.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on a running annual average of monthly samples.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million—or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water = 1 ppm.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion—or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water = 1 ppb.

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**na:** not applicable.