

# Quality on Tap

Village of Schoolcraft  
Water Department  
2009 Water Quality Report

**About Your Water** ♦ The water provided to you by the Village of Schoolcraft Water Department (VSWD) is from two groundwater wells. We pump this water from a fan of groundwater known as the Prairie Ronde fan; we commonly refer to it as the Schoolcraft aquifer. This aquifer is located in southwest Kalamazoo County; water flows from the northwest to the southeast. The well water supply is treated with chlorine for water system disinfection, to prevent bacteriological contamination and fluoride to promote healthy teeth. Also, phosphate is added to the well water supply to provide corrosion control and eliminate rusty water in the water system. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has approved our Wellhead Protection Program. The goal of the program is to protect our water supply from potential sources of groundwater contamination and, it demonstrates our commitment to the preservation of our water supply, so that you will have safe drinking water for years to come. We are also pleased to advise you that we have moved our water utility from the center of US 131 to the Village right-of way. This movement allows better water flow to our residents.

**Definitions** ♦ The following are a few terms and abbreviations contained in this report, with their definitions.

- ♦ **Action level (AL)** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ♦ **Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology. These levels are very stringent; a person drinking every day for a lifetime two liters of water containing a contaminant at the MCL would have a one-in-one-million chance of developing abnormal health effects.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **PPB Part Per Billion.** A level of measurement for some contaminants, equal to the number of micrograms of a substance contained in one liter of water; also known as parts per billion (ppb).
- ♦ **Milligrams per liter (mg/L):** The level of measurement for most contaminants, equal to the number of milligrams of a substance contained in one liter of water; also known as parts per million (ppm).
- ♦ **MRDL:** Maximum residual disinfectant level.
- ♦ **MRDLG:** Maximum residential disinfectant level good.
- ♦ **TTHM:** Total Trihalomethanes.
- ♦ **DCRD:** Distribution Chlorine Residual Data.

**Data About Contaminants** ♦ We are pleased to report that, once again, *the drinking water provided to you by the Village of Schoolcraft Water Department meets or exceeds every federal and state requirement.* Despite these high marks, we continue to examine ways in which we can improve the quality of our water, so that your drinking water will be the very best it can be.

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 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 (800-426-4791).

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 the following:

- ♦ **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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ♦ **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 stormwater 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts 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.

The following tables list contaminants which were detected in laboratory testing. Definitions of abbreviations are listed above in the section entitled "Definitions." Some data may be more than one year old. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less frequently than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### Inorganic Contaminants

<i>Contaminant</i>	<i>Violation?</i>	<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Our Water</i>	<i>Range of Detection</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>Likely Source</i>
Arsenic	No	8/21/07	5 ppb	N/A	0 ppb	10 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	8/21/07	0.12 mg/l	N/A	2 mg/l	2 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	9/15/09	0.51 mg/l	N/A	4 mg/l	4 mg/l	Water additive (promotes strong teeth)
Nitrate	No	9/15/09	N/A	N/A	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	Erosion of natural deposits, fertilizer, septic systems
TTHM	No	8/28/07	11 ppb	N/A	N/A	80 ppb	By product disinfection process

**Lead / Copper** ♦ Ten sites were selected for sampling of lead and copper. None of those sites exceeded the action level. Please note that infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

<i>Contaminant</i>	<i>Violation?</i>	<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Our Water</i>	<i>Sites Exceeding AL</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>AL</i>	<i>Likely Source</i>
Copper	No	September 09	.25 mg/l	0	1.3 mg/l	1.3 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing

**Special Monitoring** ♦ These are contaminants for which there is no known health risk, but for which EPA requires monitoring for the purpose of tracking the contaminants to help determine if regulation might be required in the future.

<i>Contaminant</i>	<i>Violation?</i>	<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Our Water</i>	<i>Range of Detection</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>Likely Source</i>
Sodium	N/A	9/15/09	13 mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

	MRDL	MRDLG	Sampling Date	Highest Running Annual Av.	Range (Lowest to Highest)
DCRD	4 mg/l	4 mg/l	Jan – Dec. 09	.2 mg/l	.05-.33 mg/l

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons (such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Source Water Assessment Report** ♦ Your water comes from two groundwater wells located near East Cass and North Cedar Streets. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2005 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a five-tiered scale from "low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, well construction and contaminant sources. **The susceptibility of our source is Very High for both wells.** The Village of Schoolcraft is making efforts to protect our sources through our participation in the Wellhead Protection Program as detailed earlier in this report. A copy of the full report may be obtained by using the contact information at the bottom of this document.

**Ways to Get More Information** ♦ If you have any questions about your water, about this report, the Source Water Assessment Report, or about any other information, please feel free to contact DPW Superintendent Gordie Shaw at the Village Office, located at 442 N. Grand St. (mailing address: PO Box 8), Schoolcraft, MI 49087. The telephone number is 269-679-4304. You are also welcome to attend Village meetings. They are held on the first and third Monday of every month (only the first Monday in July and August, and on the first regular business day if the meeting would fall on a holiday) at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall. We welcome your input and your inquiries.