

### **Information on Coliform Violations**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Fecal coliforms are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The City issued a public notice at the time the violations occurred, which provided additional information. The City took additional samples immediately, and none of those tested positive for coliform. We then took several additional samples over the next two months, and again none of those samples were positive. We were unable to determine a cause for the positive samples.

### **Lead in Drinking Water**



The City adds a corrosion control product to its water supply in order to reduce the levels of lead that may be in your tap water. Monitoring has shown that lead levels overall have decreased since the addition of this product beginning in 1998; however, 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 system.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water.

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced, or reduced.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **About Water Service Disruptions**

If there is a disruption in your water service for an unknown reason, please call the Public Works Department (or the Police Department during off-hours).

When a water line break occurs, the rust present in the pipes can become upset and cause discoloration of the water. If your water service is disrupted due to a water main break, the City recommends that you not use your water until your full water pressure has been restored. The City then recommends using only your cold water to flush your line, in order to avoid getting discolored water into your hot water tank. Flushing of your water line may take several minutes until the water clears. If discoloration persists, you should call the Public Works Department (or the Police Department during off-hours) for assistance.

### **Contacting City Hall**



City Hall offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday, except holidays. The Police Department is always open. Water emergencies during City Hall office hours may be reported to the Public Works Department at 678-3022. Water emergencies during off-hours may be reported to the Police Department at 678-3080, or for TTY use only, 678-3070.

Water quality inquiries or other inquiries about the water system should be directed to the City Engineer's Office at 678-3020 during City Hall office hours. Billing inquiries should be directed to the Utility Office at 678-3002 during City Hall office hours.

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS – 2009

Contaminant, unit of measurement	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper, ppm	No	0.491*	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead, ppb	No	5.1*	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride, ppm	No	0.11**	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalo-methanes), ppb	No	31.5	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA (Haloacetic Acids), ppb	No	5.8	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Yes	2 positive samples	1 positive sample	0 positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform	Yes	1 positive sample	0 positive samples	0 positive samples	Human and animal fecal waste
Contaminant, unit of measurement	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine, ppm	No	1.02***	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Monitoring required every three years; this result is from 2007 - none of the thirty samples we collected exceeded the action level.

\*\*Monitoring required every nine years; this result is from 2004.

\*\*\*Highest running annual average of samples taken (computed quarterly). Levels of individual samples (10 samples minimum taken per month) ranged from 0.30 to 1.62 ppm.

### **Detected Contaminant Types**

- Copper, lead, and fluoride are inorganic contaminants.
- TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) and HAA (Haloacetic Acids) are disinfection byproducts.
- Total coliform and fecal coliform are microbiological contaminants
- Chlorine is a disinfectant

### **Definitions**

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 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.

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

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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 contamination.

ppm - parts per million

ppb - parts per billion

## **City of Oil City 2009 Drinking Water Quality Report**

The City of Oil City is required by law to forward this annual report to all its water customers. We routinely monitor the quality of your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Table included in this brochure shows the results of our monitoring for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.



### **Your Drinking Water Source**

The source of Oil City's drinking water is groundwater, consisting of a series of wells at the Seneca Farm field located along the Allegheny River upstream from the Oil City business district. The Seneca Farm field has been supplying drinking water for the City since 1897.

### **Drinking Water Quality**

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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Sources of Contamination**

As groundwater travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring substances, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants can include microbes such as viruses and bacteria, organic chemicals, inorganic substances such as salts and metals, pesticides or herbicides, or radioactive materials.

The Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (PADEP) performed a Source Water Assessment for Oil City in 2003. According to the Assessment, potential sources of contamination of Oil City's water supply are: oil and gas wells (medium potential susceptibility), and major roads (low potential susceptibility). The complete Assessment Report is available for review in the City Engineer's Office. The City is currently working with PADEP to develop a Source Water Protection Plan, which will recommend methods to protect our drinking water source.

Oil City's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine, which produces certain by-products. The water may also dissolve substances found in the piping network within the distribution system and in home plumbing systems.

#### **\*\* Attention Immuno - Compromised Persons \*\***

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. More information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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Oil City, PA 16301

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## **2009 Drinking Water Quality Report - City of Oil City - PWSID 6610023**

This report contains important information about your drinking water.  
Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



### **For Further Information**

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact the City Engineer at 678-3020. Regular City Council meetings are held once a month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 21 Seneca Street. We encourage our residents to attend these meetings and become more involved with City government.



**Water Conservation Goal Statement:** The City of Oil City seeks the most efficient use of its water system, thereby optimizing the use of natural resources and revenues while providing reliable and excellent quality water to our customers.

**Check out our web site at [www.oilcity.org](http://www.oilcity.org)**