

2006 Water Quality Report



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St. Cloud's Drinking Water Exceeds Water Quality Standards

The 2006 Water Quality Report summarizes our drinking water monitoring results during the 2006 calendar year. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources.

No substances were detected at levels that exceeded federal standards. A few substances were detected in trace amounts well below Federal Safe Drinking Water Act goals that are set for public water systems throughout the country. The table on the back side of this report lists the detected substances. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. If substances are sampled less frequently than once per year, the date sampled is included.

Use Water Wisely!

The City of St. Cloud continues to encourage residents to use water wisely. The City's website has information on how to use tap water in the most efficient and effective manner. Tips will be available on local cable access Channel 19 and included in Utility bills.

The City of St. Cloud recommends using water wisely by voluntarily watering on odd/even days. The recommended watering cycle is if you live in an odd numbered house, water on the odd days; even numbered houses, water on even days.

Protect The Source

The quality of St. Cloud's source of drinking water is largely dependent on you. Protection of our drinking water source, the Mississippi River, is critical and we all make a difference. Did you know that many activities on land, seemingly far from the River, can have an impact on water quality? Things like keeping grass clippings and leaves out of storm drains, picking up after your pet and changing your car washing habits can all add up to cleaner water. Please visit our website at mnwaterconnection.com for some easy ways we all can make a difference.



Drinking Water Source

The City of St. Cloud uses the Mississippi River as the source for drinking water. The drinking water provided to our customers continues to meet or exceed drinking water quality standards. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has determined that our source water is potentially susceptible to contamination. The City of St. Cloud has developed a Source Water Protection Plan to help prevent contamination of the Mississippi River. To obtain the MDH source water assessment, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) during regular business hours. The source water assessment can be viewed online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Please contact the Minnesota Department of Health or the Public Utilities if you have any questions regarding drinking water or if you would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

2006 Water Quality Table

Substance	Highest Level Allowed	Level Found		Typical Source Of Substance
		Reported Result	Range	
The following substances are regulated at the Water Treatment Facility:				
Nitrate as nitrogen (parts per million)	10.0 MCL Goal 10.0	0.82	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (parts per million)	4.0 MCL Goal 4.0	1.2	1.1 – 1.3	Fluoride is added to promote strong teeth as required by the State; erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine (parts per million)	4.0 MRDL Goal 4.0	1.2 / 2.1 Lowest/Highest Monthly Avg	1.92 Highest Quarterly Avg	Water additive used to control microbes.
Combined Radium (PicoCuries per liter) (3/26/2002)	5.4 MCL Goal 0	0.99	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity* (NTU)	TT	Percent in High Quality Range	Highest Single Measure	Soil runoff.
		100%	0.19	
* Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. Turbidity is measured in Turbidity Units called NTU's.				
The following substances are regulated in the Distribution System:				
TTHM** (parts per billion)	80.0	55.53	25.0 – 53.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection practices.
Haloacetic Acids (parts per billion)	60.0	27.43	10.8 – 32.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection practices.
# of Samples over Action Level				
Lead (parts per billion) (8/19/2004)	Action Level (AL) 15.0	90% Level 2.0		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (parts per million) (8/19/2004)	1.3	0.05	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
** Total Trihalomethanes are formed when free chlorine (used for disinfection) combines with specific naturally-occurring substances.				
The following are Unregulated Substances:				
Sodium (parts per million)	Not Regulated	8.3	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (parts per million)	Not Regulated	37.8	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
DEFINITIONS: Parts per million = ppm = 1 pound in 500 tons. Parts per billion = ppb = 1 pound in 500,000 tons. MCL Goal: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (concentrations less than this have no known or expected risk to health). MRDL Goal: Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal. TT: Treatment Technique (a required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water). AL: Action Level (concentration of a contaminant that if exceeded, triggers additional requirements a water system must follow). 90 th Percentile Level: This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.				

More about 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. Substances that may be present in source water (prior to treatment) 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 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that 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 that 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 the water poses a health risk.

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 about contaminants and potential health effects, including EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, are available at the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.