

Frenchtown Water 2008 Annual Water Quality



KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

The Frenchtown Charter Township provides your drinking water and is pleased to present you with the Eleventh annual water quality report. This report follows the guidelines set by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply. This report illustrates that we are achieving our goals.

YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT

H2O Conserve web site (www.h2oconserve.com) has produced a fun way to find out how much water we are using on a daily basis. The Web site features the H2O Calculator and tips for saving water. The web site allows you to compute your water footprint, which includes home water use and water used to produce your food, energy, and household products. It is a quick and fun way to see the amount of water we are using daily.

GOING GREEN

Everyone is trying to find ways to go green. Well there are a few ways you can help with just your water habits. A very easy habit to change is letting the water run while you brush your teeth. It may seem like a small change, but can save thousand of gallons of water. You can install water saving faucets and toilets. These devices use less water every time you use them. Be sure to fix any constant dripping faucets, it is not just annoying, it is also a huge loss of water. You can lose about 20 gallons of water per day from a single dripping faucet. If you have a yard sprinkler system, make sure your sprinkle heads are not watering your driveway or sidewalks. Every little change will help.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Frenchtown Township routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table in this report shows the results of monitoring period for January 1st to December 31st, 2008, unless noted.

OUR DRINKING WATER

Our drinking water originates from Lake Erie. Water is drawn through two intakes lines. The intakes are both equipped with zebra mussel control to prevent obstructions. Raw Water is then pumped to the Water Treatment Plant. The MDEQ has preformed a Source Water Assessment of our water supply. Our source water has been categorized as highly susceptible, given land uses and potential contamination sources within the source water area. If you would like more information on the SWA report, please call the Acting Utility Director: Rich Weirich

MONITORING VIOLATION

Frenchtown Water received a tier III monitoring violation for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal. **There is no health hazard associated with TOC; there is NO need to boil your water.** The samples were taken, but were taken from a improper sampling site. Most treatment samples are sampled from the plant tap water. Our treatment plant has 2 separate systems: the new Membrane side, which has no required TOC removal and the existing Claricone side, which requires a 25% removal. Working with the MDEQ we have moved our sample location to represent the Claricone water only. Recent samples have been completed and are meeting all standards. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to call: Rich Weirich, Acting Utility Director: (734) 289-1015.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. The sources of both tap and bottled drinking waters include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from animals and human activity. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800) 426-4791.

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 salt and metals, which can be naturally occurring, or result from urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- *Organic Chemical Contaminates*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, septic systems, and urban or agricultural runoff (i.e. pesticides and herbicides).

All of these contaminants were below the level of concern in your water. To ensure that tap water is safe, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration is in the process of establishing limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

- *Radioactive Contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential use.

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DEFINITIONS

Parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb) – One ppm can be equated to 4 teaspoons of salt in a standard 24-foot backyard pool. One ppb is one teaspoon of salt in an Olympic sized pool.

Maximum Residual Disinfections Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of drinking water disinfections below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Residual Disinfections Level (MRDL) – The highest level of disinfection allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)- The MCLG is the level of contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs provide for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)- The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in the drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels by the State and Federal government. To understand the possible health effects, a person would have to drink about two liters of water every day at a MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in –a-million chance of having the associated health effect.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – measures clarity.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

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

ND – Not detectable at testing limit

Frenchtown Water Department 2008 Water Quality Test Results

The following chart illustrates the levels at which regulated elements were detected during 2008, unless other wise noted. Please note that some chemicals, such as chlorine and fluoride, are added to the water to improve health. We are pleased to report that all the detected substances are within Federal and State limits.

Monitored at the Water Treatment Plant

Regulated Elements and Source	Average	Low	High	Maximum Allowed in Drinking Water (MCL)	Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)
Fluoride Added to water to promote strong teeth Discharge of fertilizer and aluminum factories Erosion of natural deposits	0.98 ppm	Na	Na	4.0 ppm	4.0ppm
TOC _{1 1a} Naturally present in the environment	33% Removal (25% Required)	29-40%	TT		N/A
Chlorine Water additive used to control microbes	0.69 ppm	0.41	0.87	MRDL=4.0 ppm	MRDLG=4.0 ppm
Turbidity ₃ Soil runoff	0.079 ntu	0.025	0.167	TT	none
Sodium Naturally occurring mineral	26	Na	Na	none	none

Monitored in the Distribution System

Lead and Copper – Monitored at the Customers’ Taps – We collected samples for lead and copper in 2008, since we met the regulations we are only required to test every three years.

Copper Corrosion of customer plumbing	90%= 300 ppb	Exceeded 0	1300 ppb	1300 ppb
Lead ₂ Corrosion of customer plumbing	90%= 2 ppb	Exceeded 0	15 ppb	0 ppb

Trihalomethanes and Halo Acetic Acid – Monitored in the Distribution System

Total Trihalomethanes –by product of Chlorinated water	40.0 ppb	1	65	80 ppb	0
Halo Acetic Acids – by product of Chlorinated water	53.0 ppb	0	63	60 ppb	0

Footnotes:

- TOC – The Total Organic Carbon removal ration is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The ratios shown are the average of the ratios and the range of months covered by this report. Our required removal of TOC is 25%.
 - TOC Tier III Violation- Sample site location, current samples are meeting all standards.
- If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from the materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Frenchtown Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 to minimize exposure is available for the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.
- Turbidity measures the cloudiness of the water. For systems that provide filtration, like Frenchtown, turbidity must never exceed 1 NTU, and must not exceed 0.3 NTU in more than 95% if daily samples in any month. All of our samples were below 0.3. This indicates that our treatment process is working effectively.
- Averages shown for TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) and HAA5 (Halo Acetic Acids) are the highest running annual averages calculated quarterly. Compliance is based on this average.

Information for people with Special Health Concerns:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Frenchtown Water Plant: (734) 289-1015

Frenchtown Charter Township: (734) 242-5800

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

EPA Website: www.epa.gov/safewater

Michigan DEQ Website: www.michigan.gov/deq

Frenchtown Water Plant business hours: 8am– 4pm

All Water Department emergencies can be reported 7 days a week, 24 hours a day @ **800-296-0154**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the Frenchtown Water Department

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. From July 2006 through September 2008 we did not correctly monitor or test for Total Organic Carbon (TOC-control of disinfections by-products precursors) and therefore, cannot be sure of the TOC levels of your drinking water during that time.

THIS VIOLATION DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil water or use an alternative source of water.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfections byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids (HAA). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer. Frenchtown Water was NOT above the MCL for either byproduct.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during 2008:

Contaminant	Required sampling Frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	Date samples were taken
TOC	1/Quarter	0	7/01/06-9/30/08	October and November 08

What happened? What is being done?

We performed this monitoring but the samples were collected from an incorrect sampling point in our treatment plant. Samples were collected from a sample point of all other required treatment plant samples. We have since consulted the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and have correctly changed the sampling point. The sampling error has since been corrected and we have submitted several sets of samples in October and November 2008 that have met the requirements of the Michigan Safe Drink Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended.

For more information, please contact Mr. Rich Weirich, Acting Utility Director, at (734) 289-1015, or the MDEQ (517) 780-7840.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Frenchtown Water Department.

CERTIFICATION:

WSSN:02500

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification regulation in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended (Act 399), and the administrative rules promulgated thereunder.

Signature: 

Title: Acting Utility Director

Date Distributed: 2/10/2008