

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report-2008

City of Hillsboro, North Dakota

The City of Hillsboro, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), has prepared and is distributing to our customers this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source is groundwater taken 90 feet deep from the Hillsboro Aquifer. We draw from 3 wells located west of Hillsboro. The water is processed through an iron and manganese removal plant, and then stored in a 500,000-gallon clearwell. From there it is pumped to town into the distribution system, which includes a 90,000-gallon overhead storage tank.

The City of Hillsboro is a participant in the State Wellhead Protection Program. It contains information on our well site, delineation, and our source water assessment. The protection report along with other relevant information is available at our city offices.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Anderson at 636-4860. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at City Hall. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please call Jim Anderson at the number listed above.

The City of Hillsboro would appreciate it if large volume water customers, such as apartment complexes, hospitals, schools, or business', post copies of the CCR in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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:

(A) *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

(B) *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil production, mining or farming.

(C) *Pesticides and herbicides*, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

(D) *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.

(E) *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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Hillsboro is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

The City of Hillsboro routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. The data presented is for 2008 or the most recent year in accordance with state and federal regulations.

In these tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" is 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 "Goal" is 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.

Range of Detections - The lowest to the highest value recorded during the monitoring timeframe.

Highest Compliance Level- The highest level of that contaminant used to determine compliance with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

ppm- parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) **ppb**- parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (g/l)
umho/cm=micromhos per centimeter (measure of conductivity) **obsvns**= observations/field at 100 Power
N/D- non detect **N/A**- non applicable

Table of Detected Regulated Contaminants

| Contaminant (Units) | MCLG | MCL | Highest Comp. Level | Range of Detections | Date Obtained | Other Information | Likely Source of Contamination |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Inorganic Contaminants

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|---------------------------------|----|-----------|----------------------|---|
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 4.2 | NA | 10/9/07 | No Violation | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppb) | 2 | 2 | 0.0233 | NA | 3/11/08 | No Violation | Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.09 | NA | 3/11/08 | No violation | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate+Nitrite as N (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.88 | NA | 2/19/2008 | No Violation | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium(ppb) | 50 | 50 | 1.31 | NA | 3/11/08 | No Violation | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines |
| | | | | | | | |
| Copper (ppm) | 1.3 | AL= 1.3 | 0.792 90 th %tile | NA | 8/7/07 | No Violation | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (ppb) | 0 | AL=15 | 3.31 90 th %tile | NA | 8/7/07 | 1 Sample Exceeded AL | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |

Table of Detected Regulated Contaminants

| Contaminant (Units) | MCLG | MCL | Highest Comp. Level | Range of Detections | Date Obtained | Other Information | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---------------------|------|-----|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
|---------------------|------|-----|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|

Disinfection Byproducts (Samples were taken during 1/1/2008-12/31/2010 monitoring period.)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----------|--------------|---|
| Total Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb) | 0 | 60 | 6 | NA | 12/31/10 | No Violation | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb) | 0 | 80 | 49 | NA | 12/31/10 | No Violation | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

Disinfectants

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----|--------------|---------|---------------|---|
| Chlorine (ppm) | MRDLG =4 | MRDL =4 | 0.5 | 0.12 to 0.63 | 1/31/08 | No Violations | Water additive used to control microbes |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----|--------------|---------|---------------|---|

[**MRDLG**] Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is known or expected risk to health.

MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control of microbial contaminants.

[**MRDL**] Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.

Table of Detected Unregulated Contaminants

| Contaminate | Highest Comp. Level/Units | Date Obtained |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Bicarbonate as HCO ₃ | 331 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Calcium | 108 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Chloride | 98.1 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Conductivity @ 25 Umhos/cm | 1380 umho/cm | 3/11/08 |
| Hardness, Total (as CaCo ₃) | 427 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Magnesium | 38.2 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Nickel | 0.00213 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Ph | 7.48 ph | 3/11/08 |
| Potassium | 6.3 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Sodium | 134 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Sodium Adsorption | 2.82 obsvns | 3/11/08 |
| Sulfate | 307 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| TDS | 856 ppm | 3/11/08 |
| Zinc | 0.00461 ppm | 3/11/08 |

Total Organic Carbon Removal

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Alkalinity, Total | 271 ppm | 3/11/08 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State Primary Drinking Water Standards.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Dept. of Health, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, the North Dakota Dept. of Health has determined that our source water is **moderately** susceptible to potential contaminants.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements to our water system. Hillsboro's Water Treatment Plant is over 40 years old and its watermains and water tower are even older. During those years only minor maintenance has been addressed. No long-term plan, for any major improvements, was set up.

Over the last ten years we have been involved in a study to address these problems and deficiencies. Each area of the water system, whether it is supply, treatment or distribution, needs some type of renovation. If not now, some time in the near future. Even though our water rates have always been very attractive, adjustments may be necessary to pay for the costs of these improvements.

Included in this year's report is a list of Unregulated Contaminants in our system that are not health related but do affect the aesthetic quality of our water. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

When modifications and upgrades are made to the Treatment System the City may choose to reduce these aesthetic related Unregulated Contaminants.

This is our water system. The longer we wait the higher these adjustments and costs will be. We as residents and taxpayers need to decide on and address these issues. Whether the changes come about now or in the future, we need to voice our opinions.

Thank you for allowing us to provide your family with clean, quality water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our future.

Please call our offices if you have questions.
Public Works Shop 636-4860
City Hall 636-4620

Thank you,
City of Hillsboro

Commissioners

Kevin Burg
Lorraine Tibert
Jeff Nelson
Kyle Stern
Charles Stock

Auditor

Lesley Connelly

Superintendent

Jim Anderson