



## **2008 Annual Report on Water Quality** *Coldwater Board of Public Utilities*

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities (CBPU) is pleased to present the 2008 Annual Report on Water Quality. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. This report will help you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. The CBPU is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Your water comes from four deep well groundwater wells, each over 130 feet deep drawing water between the Coldwater River Basin and the St. Joseph River Basin watershed. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is "moderately high". Significant sources of contamination include the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities Power Plant, the former Midwest Foundry site, Associated Truck Lines, and an oil spill at the American Truck Driving School that may have pushed into the storm drain. We are making efforts to protect our sources by being one of the first communities in the state of Michigan to have an approved Wellhead Protection Program. Furthermore, in 2005 the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities was awarded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for being the first public water system in Michigan to update their wellhead or source water protection plan. If you would like to know more about the report or what the utility does about source water protection please contact Tom Spitzner at (517) 279-4805 or our website at [www.cbpu.com](http://www.cbpu.com).

We encourage our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board meetings. They are held on the Tuesday preceding the fourth Monday of each month at 4PM located at the Henry Brown Building, One Grand Street.

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.



In this table 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:

[Parts per million \(ppm\) or Milligrams per liter \(mg/l\)](#) – one part per million – or one ounce in 7,813 gallons of water.

[Parts per billion \(ppb\) or Micrograms per liter](#) - one part per billion – or one ounce in 7,813,000 gallons of water.

[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](#) - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) 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.

[Running Annual Average \(RAA\)](#) - a number obtained by adding quantities or measurements and dividing the sum or total by the number of quantities or measurements every three months.

Although the following is a listing of detected contaminants found in the water supply the CBPU has tested for over 130 different contaminants.

**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 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 organics, 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.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Units Of Measurement	Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> <b>Regulated</b>						
<b>Barium</b> 7/21/08	N	mg/l	0.02	0.02		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
* <b>Copper</b> 8/22/06	N	mg/l	0.608 <i>Based on 90<sup>th</sup> percentile</i>	.885	0.067-0.885	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Fluoride</b> 7/18/08	N	mg/l	1.1	1.1		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
* <b>Lead</b> 8/22/06	N	mg/l	0.004 <i>Based on 90<sup>th</sup> percentile</i>	0.042	<0.001 – 0.042	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Sodium</b> 7/18/08 <b>Non-Regulated Substance</b>	N	mg/l	16	16		Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Contaminants</b> <b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>						
<b>TTHM</b> Total-trihalomethanes 7/16/08	N	mg/l	0.0360	0.0360		By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>HAA5</b> Haloacetic Acids  7/16/08	N	mg/l	0.004	0.004		By-product of drinking water chlorination

\* These samples are taken every three years.

### TTHM Compliance

2007

2008

TTHM	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr
Distribution Site		0.0370				0.0360	
RAA						0.0360	

<b>Chlorine Residual Compliance (mg/l) 2007</b>	<b>JA</b>	<b>FE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>JU</b>	<b>JL</b>	<b>AU</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>OC</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DE</b>
Bacteriologic sample site	.36	.50	.44	.46	.37	.55	.59	.42	.51	.43	.53	.56
Average of all measurements taken in the month	.36	.50	.44	.46	.37	.55	.59	.42	.51	.43	.53	.56
<b>Chlorine Residual Compliance (mg/l) 2008</b>												
Bacteriologic sample site	.56	.46	.43	.70	.58	.46	.51	.57	.53	.51	.49	.46
Average of all measurements taken in the month	.56	.46	.43	.70	.58	.46	.51	.57	.53	.51	.49	.46
RAA calculated quarterly of 12 monthly averages			.46			.53			** <b>.54</b>			.49

\*\* Indicates the highest RAA (running annual average)

**Lead.** 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 Coldwater Board of Public Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials 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 you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

The CBPU is pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. The substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides and radioactive substances. All 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.

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities operates and maintains a water treatment plant designed to process up to 6.6 million gallons of water per day for our customers. The plant is also designed to remove iron and manganese contaminants from the raw water before distribution to our customers. Currently your Utility is processing an average of 2.4 million gallons per day and removing 98% of iron and 90% of manganese. Your Utility provides 24-hour emergency service to all of our customers.

We at the Board of Public Utilities work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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 children's future.

For more information please visit our website at [www.cbpu.com](http://www.cbpu.com) or by sending an email to [spitzner@muni.cbpu.com](mailto:spitzner@muni.cbpu.com). Please call the water treatment plant at (517) 279-4805 if you have questions.