

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2008

CITY OF NEW SHARON

We would like to share with you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2008. 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 safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of water. Our water source is supplied by three wells that draw from the alluvium. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Matt VanWyk, Water Superintendent, at 641-637-4124. The Water Department currently has over 550 customers. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held at City Hall on the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The City of New Sharon routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one second in 32 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – (MCLG) 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.

The following tests were made on a routine basis. While they show detections, there were no violations.

Copper: Samples were tested on the basis of ppm during the monitoring period. Monitoring was complete and there was no exceedence. The typical source of contaminant: corrosion of household plumbing system, erosion of natural deposits or leaching from wood preservatives. Copper is an essential nutrient but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their physician.

Lead: Samples were tested on the basis of ppb during the monitoring period. The monitoring was complete and there was no exceedence. A typical source of such contaminant might be corrosion of household plumbing or the erosion of natural deposits. 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. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population, but adults who drink this water over many years could develop problems, including kidney problems or high blood pressure. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and to flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water. Additional information is available from the Hotline number.

Barium: The sample was tested on the basis of ppm. The sample tested at 0.14, well below the MCL of 2. The typical source of contaminant is discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries or erosion in natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.

Fluoride: Fluoride samples are tested monthly on the basis of ppm. The MCL is set at 4 and samples test out at approximately 1.0. The typical source of contaminant is a water additive which promotes strong teeth, the erosion of natural deposits or discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth. Highest 1.4 and lowest 0.6.

Radioactive/Gross Alpha: This sample was tested on the basis of pCi/l. The MCL was set at 15 and our sample tested at 1.1. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Sodium: The sample was tested on the basis of ppm and tested well below the allowed level at 10.7. The typical source of contaminant is erosion and natural deposits but some sodium is added to water during the treatment process. Persons with high blood pressure might wish to consult with their physician if they have questions.

Sulfate: The sample was tested on the basis of ppm and tested well below the allowed level at 17.1. The typical source of contaminant is erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrogen/Nitrate: The testing was done on the basis of MG/l. The MCL is set at 10 and our sample tested at 0.4. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of MCL could become seriously ill, and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome. As a precaution, physicians and health-care providers are notified if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water.

Total Coliform/e. Coli: Testing for this is done twice monthly. The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a strict limit with these bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If the limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

Turbidity: This refers to the clarity of the water. There is no MCL for turbidity and it has no health effects. Its presence can, however, provide a medium for bacterial growth. The typical source of turbidity is soil runoff. New Sharon does not have a problem with this.

Dibromoacetic Acid: Routine sample tested at .0007.

Dichloroacetic Acid: Routine sample tested at .0018.

Trichloroacetic Acid: Routine sample tested at .0011.

Total Trihalomethanes: Routine sample tested at 7.63

Violations: Certified Operator Requirement – we have obtained an affidavit operator while our superintendent is being trained. Monitoring Report Violation – we have revised our monitoring procedures to include all information required by the DNR.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through the monitoring and testing that some contaminants are present but the EPA has determined that your water is **SAFE** at these levels.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 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 Hotline number.

We work continually to provide top quality water to every household. We ask that all customers help us protect our water sources to help ensure that this is possible.

This report will not be mailed to individual customers. Copies will be available at City Hall.