



## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The Whiting Water Department is committed to ensure the water delivered to you meets or exceeds Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and is safe to use and consume. This report is a summary of the quality of water provided to you, our customers, in 2023 and is intended to meet federal regulations for the consumer confidence report. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the standards set forth by regulatory agencies. The chart contained in this report shows that all contaminants detected in your water are within EPA guidelines. In 2023 as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. Thank you for allowing us to provide you and your family with SAFE, clean, quality water this past year. The employees of the Whiting Water Department 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.

## ORIGIN OF YOUR WATER

Your drinking water is purchased from the City of Hammond which treats the surface water from Lake Michigan. As water travels over the surface of the land it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Some compounds that may be found in untreated water include: biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals; and organic compounds, such as pesticides and herbicides.

## SPECIAL NOTE ON LEAD IN WATER

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## CUSTOMER VIEWS WELCOMED

If you are interested in learning more about the water department and water quality or participating in the decision-making process, there are a number of opportunities available. Questions about water quality can be answered by calling Marty Wielgos at 219-659-0407. Inquires about policy decisions can be made at the Board of Public Works meetings, which are held at 9:00am on the first and third Tuesday of each month at City Hall and are open to the public.

## CONTACT WHITING WATER

### Billing Office:

219-659-6200

Fax 219-473-4452

1443 119<sup>th</sup> Street

### Sanitary Basin:

219-659-2725

Fax 219-659-1870

1500 Central Ave

[www.whitingindiana.com/government/water-utilities/](http://www.whitingindiana.com/government/water-utilities/)

## SPECIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

This is 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## UCMR5

Our system collected samples under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (USMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples in February, August, November, and December of 2023 and did not detect any of the compounds. If you would like to view our full results, contact our office at 219-659-2725.

Source Name		Type of Water	Report Status	Location			
HAMMOND WATER DEPT - 5245020		Surface water					
Disinfectant	Date	HighestRAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2023	1	ppm	0.1 - 1.7	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	5/8/2023	0.02	0.02	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM	5/8/2023	0.8	0.8	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
DIBROMOCHLORO METHANE	8/15/2023	0.0048	0.0028 - 0.0048	MG/L	0.1	0	
FLUORIDE	5/8/2023	0.837	0.837	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE-NITRITE	5/8/2023	0.4006	0.4006	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity: Turbidity monitoring is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indicator filter performance.							
Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator	
100	11	NO	0.18	July	Treatment Plant #1	Yes	
Lead and Copper	Period	90TH Percentile	Range of Sampled Results (low-high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2019 - 2022	0.1924	0.0704 - 0.2967	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2019 - 2022	4.7	1 - 37.8	ppb	15	2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	Typical Source
THM	1938 CLARK ST	2023 - 2024	28	14.5 - 28	ppb	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
DIBROMOCHLORO METHANE	8/15/2023	0.0048	0.0028 - 0.0048	MG/L	0.1	0	
Violations: During the period covered by this report we had the below noted violations.							
Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation				No Violations during this period
Deficiencies: Unresolved significant deficiencies that were identified during a survey done on the water system are shown below.							
Date Identified	Facility	Code	Activity	Due Date			No deficiencies during this period
UCMR5	Collection Dates:		2/14/2023	8/9/2023	11/7/2023	12/19/2023	
PFOA			<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFOS			<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFPeA			<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFHxA			<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFBA			<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
HFPO-DA			<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	<0.0017 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFBS			<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFHxS			<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
PFNA			<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	<0.0013 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved
LITHIUM			<3 µg/L	<3 µg/L	<3 µg/L	<3 µg/L	PWS/EPA Approved

In the table, we shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

In the 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:

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

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 or MCLG:** 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.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** 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.

**Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Variances and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Avg:** Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average

**mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**ppb:** micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**na:** not applicable.

**µg/L:** micrograms per liter

**Safe Water Drinking Hotline 1-800-426-4791**  
<http://epa.gov/safewater>